

3 1761 11632543 2

CA1

Z1

-04101

Canada. Royal Commission on
Italian Immigration.
Report. 1905

JUN 18 1968

Government
Publications

THE ROYAL COMMISSION

APPOINTED TO INQUIRE INTO THE

IMMIGRATION OF ITALIAN LABOURERS TO MONTREAL AND THE ALLEGED
FRAUDULENT PRACTICES OF EMPLOYMENT AGENCIES

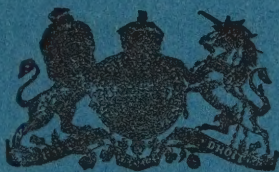
REPORT OF COMMISSIONER

AND

EVIDENCE

PRINTED BY ORDER OF PARLIAMENT

Issued by the Department of Labour, Canada

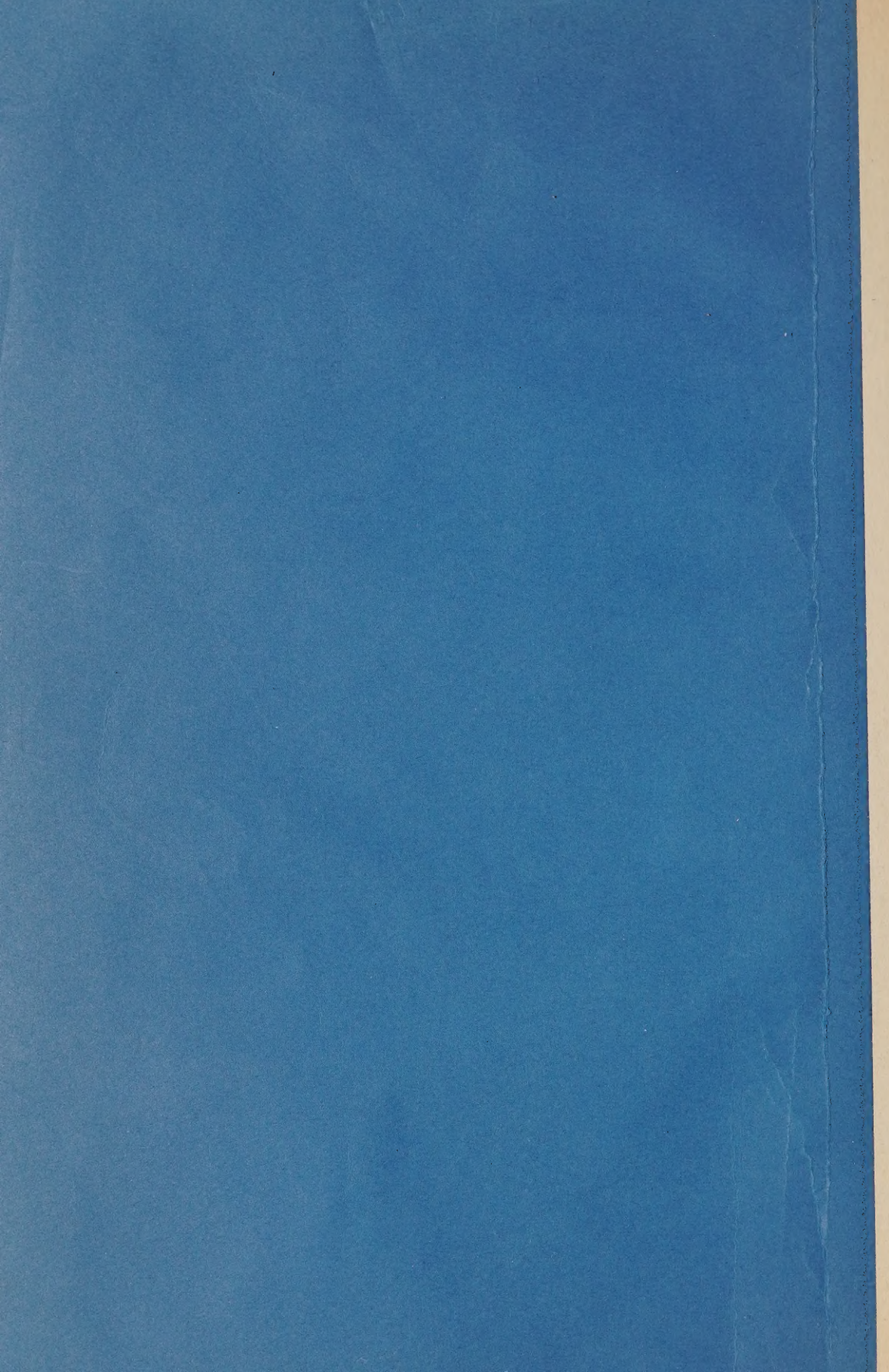



OTTAWA

PRINTED BY S. E. DAWSON, PRINTER TO THE KING'S MOST
EXCELLENT MAJESTY

1905

366—1905.]





Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2023 with funding from
University of Toronto

<https://archive.org/details/31761116325432>

THE ROYAL COMMISSION

APPOINTED TO INQUIRE INTO THE

IMMIGRATION OF ITALIAN LABOURERS TO MONTREAL AND THE ALLEGED
FRAUDULENT PRACTICES OF EMPLOYMENT AGENCIES

REPORT OF COMMISSIONER

AND

EVIDENCE

PRINTED BY ORDER OF PARLIAMENT

Issued by the Department of Labour, Canada

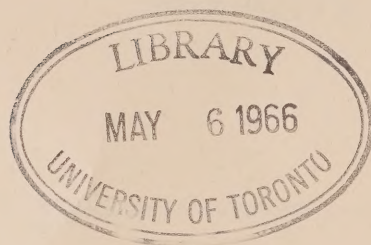


OTTAWA

PRINTED BY S. E. DAWSON, PRINTER TO THE KING'S MOST
EXCELLENT MAJESTY

1905

HD
8108
.5
A4
1905a



1068460

CONTENTS

Order <i>re</i> Appointment of Commission..	v
Commission .	vii
Letter transmitting Report of Commissioner	ix
Report of Commissioner .	xi

APPENDIX

Minutes of Evidence.....	1
Index of Witnesses.....	171

ORDER IN COUNCIL RE APPOINTMENT OF COMMISSIONER

Privy Council,
Canada.

EXTRACT from a Report of the Committee of the Honourable the Privy Council, approved by the Governor General on June 20, 1904.

On a report dated June 16, 1904, from the Minister of Labour, submitting that by an Order in Council passed on May 23, 1904, it was referred to His Honour Judge Winchester, senior judge of the County Court of the county of York as commissioner under chapter 114, Revised Statutes of Canada, to inquire into certain complaints respecting the alleged employment of aliens in connection with the proposed National Transcontinental Railway, and that such inquiry is now in progress; that complaints have been made that a large number of Italian labourers have recently been brought to the city of Montreal; that it has been represented that many of these persons were induced to come to this country through representations made by persons in Canada that there was great need of labour in the Dominion in connection with various public works and enterprises, and that certain agencies and organizations are at the present time in existence in the city of Montreal for the purpose of further promoting such immigration; that many of the said persons on reaching Montreal failed to find employment as represented, and that in consequence much distress has resulted among those who have been so induced to come to Canada, and serious dissatisfaction has arisen among Canadian workingmen in the said city and elsewhere in the Dominion; that it is expedient that an inquiry be made to ascertain the circumstances which induced the said Italian labourers to come to Montreal, and the persons engaged, directly or indirectly, in promoting their immigration, and the means and methods adopted in bringing about such immigration.

The Minister recommends that the said Judge Winchester make such further inquiry in connection with the present commission, and that the said Order in Council be amended by adding after the words 'the nature of the appointment applied for and the result of such application,' the words, 'also that an inquiry be had as to the circumstances which have induced Italian labourers to come to the city of Montreal from other countries during the present year, the persons engaged directly or indirectly in promoting their immigration and the means and methods adopted in bringing about such immigration.'

The Committee submit the same for approval.

(Signed),

JOHN J. MCGEE,,
Clerk of the Privy Council.

The Honourable
The Minister of Labour.

COMMISSION

(Sgd.) ROBERT SEDGEWICK,
Deputy Governor General.
[L. S.]

CANADA.

EDWARD the SEVENTH, by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, and of the British Dominions beyond the Seas, King, Defender of the Faith, Emperor of India.

*To all whom these presents shall come, or whom the same may in anywise concern—
Greeting:*

WHEREAS in and by an Order of Our Governor General in Council bearing date the twentieth day of June, in the year of Our Lord one thousand nine hundred and four, provision has been made for an investigation by our Commissioner therein and hereinafter named with respect to certain matters therein mentioned as upon reference to the said Order in Council, a copy of which is hereto annexed, will more fully at large appear, such order being an amendment of the Order of our Governor General in Council, cited in our certain letters patent, bearing date the twenty-third day of May, one thousand nine hundred and four, authorizing and empowering our said Commissioner to investigate certain matters therein referred to.

NOW KNOW YE that by and with the advice of Our Privy Council for Canada, we do by these presents nominate, constitute and appoint His Honour John Winchester, Judge of the County Court of the County of York, in the Province of Ontario, to be our Commissioner to conduct such inquiry.

TO HAVE, hold, exercise and enjoy the said office, place and trust unto the said John Winchester, together with rights, powers, privileges and emoluments unto the said office, place and trust of right and by law appertaining during pleasure.

AND WE do hereby under the authority of the Revised Statute respecting inquiries concerning public matters, confer upon our said Commissioner the power of summoning before him witnesses and of requiring them to give evidence on oath orally or in writing, or on solemn affirmation if they are persons entitled to affirm in civil matters, and to produce such documents and things as our said Commissioner shall deem requisite to the full investigation of the matters into which he is hereby appointed to examine.

AND We do hereby require and direct our said Commissioner to report to our Minister of Labour of Canada the results of his investigation, together with the evidence taken before him and any opinion he may see fit to express thereon.

IN TESTIMONY whereof We have caused these Our Letters to be made Patent and the Great Seal of Canada to be hereunto affixed.—Witness The Honourable Robert Sedgewick, Deputy of Our Right Trusty and Right Well-Beloved Cousin and Councillor The Right Honourable Sir Gilbert John Elliot, Earl of Minto and Viscount Melgund of Melgund, County of Forfar, in the Peerage of the United Kingdom; Baron Minto of Minto, County of Roxburgh, in the Peerage of Great Britain; Bar-

ouet of Nova Scotia; Knight Grand Cross of Our Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George; etc., etc., Governor General of Canada.

At our Government House, in our City of Ottawa, this thirtieth day of June, in the year of Our Lord, one thousand nine hundred and four, and in the fourth year of our reign.

By Command,

(Sgd.) JOSEPH POPE,
Under Secretary of State.

(Sgd.) A. POWER,
Acting Deputy of the
Minister of Justice, Canada.

LETTER TRANSMITTING REPORT OF COMMISSIONER

TORONTO, March 24, 1905.

The Honourable

Sir WILLIAM MULOCK, K.C.M.G., M.P.,
Minister of Labour, Ottawa.

SIR,—I have the honour to transmit to you the result of my investigation as Special Commissioner appointed to inquire as to the immigration of Italian labourers to the City of Montreal in the year 1904, together with the evidence taken before me and documents produced.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Sgd.) JNO. WINCHESTER,
Commissioner.

REPORT OF COMMISSIONER

TORONTO, March 24, 1905.

To the Honourable

SIR WILLIAM MULOCK, K.C.M.G., M.P.,

Minister of Labour,

Ottawa.

SIR,—I have the honour to report that pursuant to the Royal Commission issued to me, bearing date June 30, 1904, authorizing me to inquire as to the circumstances which induced Italian labourers to come to the City of Montreal from other countries during the year 1904, the persons engaged, directly or indirectly, in promoting their immigration, and the methods adopted in bringing about such immigration, I prosecuted such inquiry in the City of Montreal on the 30th June, 1st, 18th, 19th, 20th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 25th and 26th days of July, 1904.

During the first five days of such inquiry I inspected the correspondence in the offices of Messrs. Alberto Dini and Antonio Cordasco, as well as that in the office of George E. Burns, officer in charge of the special service department of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company. Having obtained translations of the correspondence found in the possession of Mr. Dini and Mr. Cordasco, it being in Italian, I appointed the 21st July, 1904, to proceed with the examination of witnesses at the Court House in Montreal, and on that date I began the examination and continued same until the close of the inquiry on July 26, during which time I examined 64 witnesses.

The Circumstances Inducing Italian Immigration.

The evidence shows that for some years past a considerable number of Italians have been employed in connection with the construction of railways and other public works in Canada; that during the year 1903 the Canadian Pacific Railway alone employed 3,144. Of these, 1,200 were in Montreal and the remainder came from the United States. Mr. Burns in his examination stated that since the summer of 1901 he engaged Italian labourers for the Canadian Pacific Railway, almost exclusively through Mr. Cordasco. Previous to that year he had employed other agents, namely, Mr. Dini, the two Schenckers, and possibly one or two others, in obtaining Italian labourers for the company, but that in the year 1901 there was a strike on the Canadian Pacific Railway, and he made special arrangements with Mr. Cordasco to obtain Italian labourers for the railway. Cordasco in turn employed agents in the United States to assist him in getting the required number.

With reference to the number of labourers required for the year 1904, the evidence given by Mr. Burns was of a contradictory character. Referring to the obtaining of Italian labourers he gave the following evidence :—

'Q. Did he (Cordasco) visit the United States with you last year, last September?
—A. He did, Your Honour.

'Q. What for?—A. He went down for the purpose of getting some agencies for steamship companies.

'Q. Was that for the purpose of getting Italians from Italy?—A. I do not know about that; the way it came about was this: he had a regular office and was doing a large business, but he had no steamship agencies, and of course when these Italians come back from work most of them have a good deal of money which they want to send over to their relatives and friends, some for their wives and children, and they buy these steamship prepaid tickets. Cordasco was desirous of getting a line of these tickets from the different steamship agents, and he came to me about the matter, and I told him he could easily get agencies if he made the proper representations to the agents in New York.

'Q. You recommended him?—A. I took some steps to get these agencies for him.

'Q. Did you appoint him sole agent for the company?—A. I never appointed him sole agent; I have always reserved the right to cancel any agreement I had with him; there was no definite period.

'Q. You have seen his advertisement from time to time?—A. I have.

'Q. In which he states that he is sole agent?—A. Yes, I think that is the translation, that he is the only agent for the Canadian Pacific Railway.

'Q. Besides being an immigration agent he is interested in a newspaper called *Corriere del Canada*?—A. I believe he is the owner.

'Q. You advertise in that, do you, Mr. Burns?—A. There is an advertisement there.

'Q. Is it with your authority, you authorized it?—A. Yes.

'Q. Your method of getting workmen was to call upon Cordasco for a certain number when you needed them?—A. We are entirely dependent upon orders from the divisions which come through the superintendents, and we have no means of stating exactly when men are required, and formerly the superintendents would send in orders, and they do it yet. These orders are generally by telegram. Mr. Skinner is telephoned, and if he is busy Mr. Cordasco is called upon to arrange the matter. A copy of the telegram sent in by the superintendent is sufficient notice for him to go ahead.

'Q. Then at the end of the year you would estimate the number you would require for the following season?—A. As far as Italians are concerned.

'Q. Did you do that last year?—A. Yes.

'Q. And how many did you estimate last fall for this year's work?—A. Your Honour, a great deal depends upon certain conditions as to whether one can make a proper estimate as to what labour is going to be required in the following year. Last year the market was all down and money was tight, and every one thought there was going to be no work going on this summer; all contractors and others were on uneasy street and could not get any idea, it was impossible for my department at the time to say how many men would be required, and it looked as if we would have to utilize the men in Canada first before taking up this Italian question. I may say that sometimes we have been obliged to go to the United States to bring Italians here to send to the North-west, and last year I do not suppose we took more than 1,200 out of Montreal.

'Q. How many men did you estimate for this season's work last fall?—A. I do not think I made any estimate one way or another.

'Q. What means do you take to ascertain the requirements of the service?—A. I send out to many contractors and men accustomed to employ labour and make inquiries. In addition to that I ask all the general superintendents on the line what their experience was before, and what they would require for going on. In regard to the year before I asked them their experience as to when men quit and requested them to state exactly how many men stayed with the company and did not jump their contracts. I thought by this means to form some idea as to the requirements for 1904, and as I stated before I was not able to foresee.

'Q. How many men, in round figures, did you estimate being required for 1904?—A. I have forgotten; I do not remember what such number was."

'Q. When we adjourned last evening we were inquiring into the question of the estimated number of labourers you would require for 1904?—A. Yes, your Honour.

'Q. Well, now, you told me that you had written some superintendents for information so as to enable you to estimate the number?—A. Yes, your Honour.

'Q. What was the result of your efforts to estimate that number?—A. The effort was fruitless. On looking over the matter I found some superintendents did not give correct information, some delayed answering so long that as a matter of fact the spring was so far advanced, and we saw there was going to be a large number of labourers in America, and we dropped the whole matter; there was no estimate.

'Q. You stated last evening you thought there would not have been so many required for 1904 as had been used in 1903?—A. That statement was based on inquiries I had made and the result of this communication was that I thought there would be a stringency in the money market and consequently probably few works of any importance going on throughout the country.

'Q. Was that your opinion at that time?—A. It was, your Honour.

'Q. Now, you said you had about eight or nine thousand on the list in 1903, of which about 3,100 were Italians?—A. Yes.

'Q. How many did you think you would require for 1904? The Italian part of that number?—A. I had no idea whatever.

'Q. What means do you take to provide them?—A. That was generally all right, it does not require particular action.

'Q. It required some information from your agent, who employed them?—A. We kept pretty well posted as to labour immigration in New York and in Boston.

Q. But you relied upon Mr. Cordasco to supply you with all the Italians you wanted?—A. Yes.

'Q. If you relied upon him I suppose it was necessary to give him some information as to the number you required?—A. Well, I have never given him any definite information.

'Q. Did you give him any information as to the number you would require in 1904?—A. None.

'Q. Never spoke about it?—A. I may have discussed the matter.

'Q. Have you discussed the matter with Mr. Cordasco as to the likely number you would require in 1904?—A. It was possible.

'Q. Do you know how many you suggested to him?—A. I do not remember suggesting any number.

Q. Do you remember saying to any one that the Grand Trunk Pacific would require a great number?—A. No, your Honour, I may have inquired if the Grand Trunk Pacific would require them.

'Q. But you never mentioned that to anybody?—A. We may have discussed that matter.

'Q. With Cordasco?—A. Yes, it was discovered that the Grand Trunk Pacific was not going to require any Italians.

'Q. When did you discover that?—A. I think late in the spring.

'Q. This year?—A. Yes.

'Q. Look at that letter, was that letter written by you?—A. Yes.

'Q. And I suppose the statement there is an estimate?—A. That is in December.

'Q. I am talking about December?—A. Yes, Your Honour.

'Q. That was your opinion at that time?—A. I was thinking about the spring.

'Q. I was referring to fall not the spring, Mr. Burns. Now, your letter reads as follows :—

"December 10, 1903.

"E. P. BRADY, Esq.,

"Asst. General Superintendent,

"Winnipeg, Man.

"DEAR SIR,—Referring to the attached, my object in asking for this information is to make adequate provision early in 1904 for the labour requisitions during the season of that year.

"This year we had an unprecedented demand for labour from all sources over this company's lines, and we have shipped out in the neighbourhood of 10,000 men, skilled and unskilled, so you see that it is very important for us to know what proportion of those sent out on the lines worked out their contracts, so that some information may be obtained as to the reasons for so many men jumping their work with a view of remedying that state of affairs during the coming season. It is also necessary to find out what the local supply of labour is on each division.

"As you are possibly aware, there is every indication of a large demand for labour in this country in 1904. I am informed that possibly the Grand Trunk Pacific may want a great many thousand men, and as the supply of labour is limited in Canada, steps may possibly have to be taken on the part of our company to import labour from abroad, or make some definite arrangement in regard to the supply available in Canada.

"I am sorry to trouble you for this information, knowing you are so very busy, but I would like very much to be in a position to make my report about the first week in January, 1904.

"Would you kindly strain a point to get your superintendents to forward information desired.

"Yours truly,

"GEO. E. BURNS."

'That was your opinion?—A. That was at the time. I presumed the Grand Trunk Pacific was going ahead.

'Q. At that time that was your opinion, Mr. Burns?—A. Well, if it was not I would not have stated it.

'Q. You stated yesterday that your opinion was just the other way, that the same number would not be required in 1904 as in 1903?—A. Well, I think that I took into consideration the Grand Trunk Pacific project when I wrote that letter.

'Q. I know that I was asking you what your opinion was in the fall of 1903. You stated your opinion that a large number would not be required. Now, you wrote in December you would require more; which is correct?—A. It is difficult to reconcile both, although I utilized the information I had on hand when I wrote.

'Q. When I was trying to find the aggregate number in former years you showed me a statement to the effect that you did not think you would require so large a number, which is correct, your recollection or the letter?—A. I should say my letter.

'Q. How soon did you speak to Mr. Cordasco about supplying the Canadian Pacific Railway with Italian labour?—A. I have no recollection of speaking to Mr. Cordasco about Italian labour or to giving Cordasco any definite idea.

'Q. When you spoke to him would it be as early as September, 1903?—A. I do not think so.

'Q. December?—A. No.

'Q. You understand Mr. Cordasco's position; he would have to get men, he would have to make arrangements ahead?—A. Certainly.

'Q. How long ahead would he require to make arrangements?—A. It just depends on the state of the labour market.

Q. You are beginning to look for men as early as the opening of spring; now, when would you require to inform Mr. Cordasco?—A. I do not think I ever made any preparation.

‘Q. Did he?—A. Not to my knowledge.

‘Q. You advertise in the same paper he does, you get that paper?—A. I have never seen his advertisement for men.

‘Q. You remember the advertisement Mr. Dini says he put in in consequence of the advertisement of Cordasco?—A. I do, Your Honour.

‘Q. You say these labour agents had to prepare some time ahead, and you had to prepare some time ahead?—A. No, the preparation was not made. We had no data to go on.

‘Q. I understand you were preparing to get ready for the work?—A. We were looking around.

‘Q. You did not speak to him (Cordasco) at all?—A. I spoke to Cordasco several times.

‘Q. When?—A. In the course of the winter. * * * Some steps, some arrangements would have to be made. When I come to think of this matter I can tell you what made me write this letter.

‘Q. Well?—A. I had been in New York and had met our agent.

‘Q. That was the time you were down with Cordasco?—A. I think that was the time, and he informed me that the general agent of the Anchor Line had told him he was to bring in 10,000 for the Grand Trunk Pacific.

‘Q. Who was the agent?—A. I do not know. This agent stated that they were bringing in about 10,000 men for the Grand Trunk Pacific this spring, and I think it must have been acting on this information I wrote that letter.

‘Q. That was September you were down?—A. I think not; I think it was later than September; I think it was in December.

‘Q. Had Mr. Cordasco that information, too?—A. I think he had.

‘Q. You were both together at the time?—A. Yes.

‘Q. So that he was also aware that they were preparing then for a large number of men?—A. Yes.

‘Q. At that time you thought that steps might possibly have to be taken on the part of your company to import labour from abroad?—A. Yes, Your Honour. I may say that I took some steps in regard to the importation of labour with the management; it was my desire to send some one of our men over—

‘Q. To Italy?—A. No, to England, Scotland and Scandinavia for the purpose of getting immigrants.

‘Q. How many were you going to get out?—A. We wanted him only to get prepared.

‘Q. He was not going to send men over?—A. Only 100 or 200; we wanted him to be ready if we required men to send them by next ship.

‘Q. You would not go into such an undertaking for the company without consulting the management, you proposed that to the management this spring?—A. Yes.

‘Q. When?—A. I think it was in the month of February or beginning of March.

‘Q. Did you talk to Cordasco about helping in this matter?—A. Cordasco was not in it; the Italian question did not come into it.

‘Q. Did you not inquire how many you could depend upon getting?—A. I did make some inquiry, but I did not know the number. I spoke to Mr. Cordasco.

‘Q. Did he not tell you he was having a lot of men coming from Italy?—A. I think he did mention that he had a lot of men, he did not tell me they were coming from Italy.

‘Q. You are quite clear about that?—A. I am; I have no recollection of his saying about bringing any men from Italy.

‘Q. He wrote you a letter on May 10, 1904?—A. Yes, I remember that letter distinctly, but I have no idea he ever brought them over.

‘Q. The letter is as follows:—

'Montreal, May 10, 1904.

'G. E. Burns, Esq.,
Special Agent, C.P.R.

Re Information.

'Dear Sir,—Arrived by the way of Chiasso, over 300 Italians and nearly 200 by New York. Sure will be a disgraceful for these poor immigrants with the old ones which they put up here all winter, and Italian Consul with his society are to be blamed and they should be crushed to peace.

'Your servant,
'A. CORDASCO.'

In Mr. Cordasco's evidence he admitted receiving a number of letters which were found in his office and also admitted some of the replies sent to same from his office, but invariably denied that he authorized his clerk to state that he wanted 10,000 men. Some of the letters so received and answered are as follows :—

On the 18th October, 1903, he wrote to Mr. Ludwig, passenger agent, Chiasso, Italy, as follows:—

'By the same mail I am sending you package of my business cards, asking you to hand them to the passengers or better to the labourers you will send directly to me. Please note that work here is never short, and anybody you will send to me personally are sure to be employed. In summer you may send hundreds of them and be sure as soon as they arrive they will find work at once. To satisfy the Italians better, I have opened a banking office, of which I send a circular to you, and from which you will see that I can do all that they request. Awaiting for some shipment, and to hear from you soon,

Yours truly,

A. CORDASCO.

P.S.—Please note that on the Canadian Pacific Railway alone I employ about four thousand men per year, besides the other companies. Please take all the information you may require about me.'

In answer he received a letter from Mr. Ludwig dated Chiasso, November 27, 1903, in which he stated: ".....I am going to try and send you some passengers in the hope that they will not be cheated, and if I see you act as an honest man I shall give your address to all the passengers who go to Montreal.....If you provide work for some of my passengers you must be satisfied with a modest commission, and Alberto Dini, with whom I worked until now, placed my passengers without any commission, and I never had any complaint against him. We shall see then, if you will work with the same conscience and punctuality.

Waiting to hear from you,

F. LUDWIG."

On the 7th December Mr. Cordasco wrote him a very long letter in which he stated: ".....Every year I secure work for 4,000 or 5,000 men, and next spring I need 10,000 to employ in the Canadian Pacific Railway, and other railway companies and contractors, and you must know that all the workingmen for whom I secured work, when the season is over, and that have paid every expense, they can save from \$150 to \$600."

On the 26th January a letter was sent to Mr. Luigi Searcella, 243 Rideau street, Ottawa, Ont., in which he said:—

SESSIONAL PAPER No. 36b.

"Next season I shall be in need of 10,000 men whose work will be heavy, and I understand in your letter you do not like to work with a shovel. In the beginning of March please to write again, and I will see if I can do anything for you, but I cannot promise anything."

On the 9th February he wrote a similar letter to Aristide Guerrieri, Post Office Box 11, Mapleton Dep., Pa., as follows:—

"Your letter (without any date). I am sorry to say I shall not be able to find any work that will suit you. I find work for thousands of men, and this year I shall be in need of 10,000 of them, but I need only men that can work with shovel and pick."

And on the 19th February in a letter to Angello D. Sentis, 18 Canal street, Buffalo, N.Y., he writes: ".....I need this year nearly 10,000 men, but all of them must be able to work with pick and shovel. If you like you may engage men for the first shipment, but I do not take any responsibility, only take those men who give their name by their own free will and send me the list of the names very clearly written with a mark that shows they have paid \$1 each for office and inscription fees."

On February 17, 1904, there was a post card sent to him from Udine, Italy, by Antonio Paretti, as follows:—

'I received a newspaper, the *Corriere del Canada*, in which appears your distinguished name, as I believe you are the kind donor. As we have a strong stream of emigration (from the Venetian Provinces) towards that country, I should be very glad to frequently receive your newspapers, and I can reciprocate by sending you Italian papers. You might send me a time-table of the Canadian Pacific Railway from Montreal to the interior of Canada, with a map * * * *

In answer to this postal card the following letter, dated March 1, 1904, was sent: 'Sig. Antonio Paretti,

'94 Aquilea, Udine, Italy.

'I am in possession of newspapers which you were so kind as to send me; also your cards, and wish to thank you for them; also two packages. I am sending you the time-table which you asked me for and my address, which you can give to the people so that I will know them when they come.

'At the end of the present month there will open up great and important works, and I must supply about 10,000 labourers. If you have any passengers, you can send them without any fear—I am able to give them immediate work. The salary will be \$1.50 a day; besides that they will get a return ticket from any locality; they can board themselves or get board as they like. The work will last long and the payment is sure. Each man gets a contract in Italian, containing the clear conditions under which they have to work, in which is specified the length of time, salary, &c. In one word, there will be no tricks or schemes. I am always here to defend the interests of compatriots. I am, besides, in touch with other navigation agents in Italy, and they have already written to me that they will send some passengers to me this month. If you send any one to me, please supply them with two of my business cards that I sent you, so that each passenger landing at New York will be recognized by one of my agents, which agent, authorized by me, will accompany them to the train, and on the train to Montreal, so that they won't be taken up by anybody else, or fall into the hands of speculators.

Already a large number of workers arrive continuously, especially from Vicenza, Treviso, and some from Padova, Belleno, also some from Pordenone, Codroipo.

'If you wish to send us any men, you need not have any fear, and send them all to my address. You must notify me in time when the men will arrive, sending the names of the passengers and of the company and boat by which they start.

'With regards,

'(Sgd.) A. CORDASCO,
'Per A. GANNA.

4-5 EDWARD VII., A. 1905

And on April 6, the following letter was sent :—

‘Mr. ANTONIO PARETTI,
‘94 Via Aquileia, Udine.

‘In these days some Italians come to me showing your blank business card and saying that you recommended them to me, and although the presentation signal was not a sure guarantee, I received them and shall send them to work.

‘In future it will be better, when you send Italians to me, to give them one of my business cards with your office on them, and I shall be sure they are sent by you.

‘Some time ago I sent you several business cards; to-day I am sending you some more of them.

‘I thank you for the newspaper you sent me and hope you will receive weekly the newspaper that I send you.

‘Yours truly,

‘ANTONIO CORDASCO.

‘Per A. GANNA.’

On April 26 Mr. Cordasco further wrote him as follows :—

‘Mr. ANTONIO PARETTI,
‘Udine, Italy.

‘I confirm my letter of the 6th inst., and I address you the present to clear up some facts that cause me annoyance, that I do not need to have.

‘Many immigrants from the Venetian provinces came to me declaring that they were sent by you, but without any card of recognition, and alleging that you had promised that they would be sent to work in two days.

‘I don’t wish to blame you for that, nor do I believe what the men say, but I think it is better to clear the matter up. I give employment to all Italians who come to me, as I wrote you in my letter of March 1, but it is absurd to expect that I am to give employment to-morrow to a man who applies to-day to my office. I could not put him before the others who are awaiting their turn to go and work. Please note that this year we had an uncommonly long and hard winter, and in the west, where important railway works will be done the roads and land are still frozen, and it is no use sending labourers there. This year I sent away only 70, while in previous years at this time I sent away more than a thousand.

‘Please note that many of your men declare that they are stonecutters, and that you promised them I would have them employed in this quality. I never wrote this.

‘Many of these men said that they did not intend to work on railways, but to obtain from me free transportation to British Columbia, and then with very little money to go to Michel and work in the coal mines.

‘You will understand how all this annoys me. I am not responsible for the extremely cold season that prevents the companies from starting work.

‘No one has sent men away yet, and I have only sent 70.

‘In conclusion, so as to eliminate trouble, from this moment do not send me any more passengers, and if you like to send some, please inform me how many are coming (as I asked you in my letter of March 1), and every man must have my business card with your office stamp on, and they must be warned that they must wait for their turn to work. Please, in the notice that you send me, state that you have warned them that they will have to await their turn. Also please send me a list with the names of the passengers you send me. Outside of these conditions, I am sorry to say that I could not accept the responsibility of giving work to your passengers. Please inform them that I will send them to work on railway construction, and that they will have to work with pick and shovel.

‘If, afterwards, some roadmaster may choose of them for some special work, it will be all the better for them, but I cannot guarantee to employ men in any particular quality.

‘Yours truly,

‘ANTONIO CORDASCO,

‘Per A. GANNA.’

SESSIONAL PAPER No. 36b.

To this letter he received the following reply:

'UDINE, ITALY, May 8th, 1904.

In prompt reply to your favour of April 26, which has called my attention and surprise to the facts you have mentioned, and which is in full contradiction with the other of the 6th of the same month, in which you complained that I did not send passengers addressed to you with your business card. Now, I must tell you that it is not my system, after 22 years' experience in emigration, to advise or not the passengers who are at liberty to do what they like. This is my principle.

'All our emigrants addressed to Canada were booked for beyond Montreal, and we are sure of that, for our companies do not give railway tickets beyond your residence.

'I gave the address to nobody, only to those who read your newspaper, full of promises. I answered giving good references of your firm.

'You must have great experience, and you must know that everybody can come and say what he likes, coming to you without a written line.

'Be sure that we are very careful, and we hope you will be too, and we quite understand when something happens that cannot be helped. This year everything has been against us, but we hope better days will come.

"Yours truly,

"PARETTI."

On January 27, 1904, Domenico Zappia sent the following letter from Italy to Mr. Cordasco :—

"STAITI, January 27, 1904.

"Mr. ANTONIO CORDASCO,

"Railway Agent, Montreal, Canada.

"Although I do not deserve to have the honour to be acquainted with your highly respectable person, I take the liberty of writing directly to you asking you a favour.

"As there are here about 70 men who wish to emigrate to that country, I wish you would be kind enough to receive my countrymen passengers on their landing in that part, and tell me which will be the best spot where they can be visited.

'In obliging me with a favour answer, please tell me when the works under your control will be started. I was pushed to write this letter by the noble and good reputation your name enjoys in this country. Please let me know which will be the best landing port on account of the visit.

"If I shall be able to reciprocate such an obligation, I offer you my services if you will please yourself and command me.

"Please accept my unlimited gratitude, &c.

"Yours,

"DOMENICO ZAPPIA."

"P.S.—I wish to know how much costs there, via New York or Boston.

"I beg you to answer me at once, otherwise I cannot make the men start. Please also let me know something about the age of the men, and if men over 60 years of age will be accepted; if they will be received by you, and how they have to answer to the inquiries."

To which Mr. Cordasco, on March 2, 1904, sent an answer as follows:—

"MONTREAL, March 2, 1904.

"Mr. DOMENICO ZAPPIA,

"Staiti, Prov. Reggio, Calabria.

"Your favour is before me, and in short I will let you know anything you require. You may send to me as many men as you like, and I shall be able to find work for them at \$1.50 per day, board by themselves, and the railway fare up and down free.

"Every man before he goes to work receives a contract that guarantees his pay, &c.

"You can make your men leave from March 20 or 25 via New York.

4-5 EDWARD VII., A. 1905

"If you will tell me exactly the day on which the men will leave Naples, with which company and steamer, I will send my agent to meet them in New York. He will put them on board the cars and send them to Montreal without any trouble and without falling into the hands of speculators. If they will land in Boston I will send my Boston agent to meet them.

'I am sending you a parcel of my business cards, which you will give to your men to be recognized at their landing in New York or Boston.

'Re the age of the immigrants, you must follow the Italian immigration laws that do not allow passports to people over 45 years old.

'Awaiting to hear from you,

Yours truly,

'ANTONIO CORDASCO,

'Per A. GANNA.'

On March 3, the following letter was sent from Mr. Cordasco's office in reply to a letter received by him from Marche, Province of Rome, Italy.

"MONTREAL, March 3, 1904.

"Mr. TOMMASO MONTEVERSE,

"Civitanova, Marche.

"I have before me your favour of February 3, and I have recommended you to a good company, the Transatlantica de Barcelona.

Q. That is the company you sold a number of tickets for?—A. Yes, one of them.

"If as you write, there are many men who wish to come here you may address them to me, and for that purpose, in a separate registered parcel, I send you some envelopes and business cards, and you may give one of these cards to each of your passengers, so when they land in New York they will show it and they will be addressed to me.

"In this season the works are enormous and every man will go to work with an agreement in Italian in which are explained the wages, how long the work will last, &c.

"Every workingman earns \$1.50 and more per day. He is at liberty to board himself and transportation free up and back. I am here to protect, defend and help the workingman.

"Now, you know how matters stand, and in the event of your going to send me some passengers, send me a list of their names and the name of the steamer so that my agent in New York may go and meet them.

"Yours truly,

"ANTONIO CORDASCO,

"Per A. GANNA."

While Mr. Cordasco stated that he never knew that the number 10,000 had been inserted in any letters written from his office, his clerk, A. Ganna, stated that Mr. Cordasco received all the correspondence himself and opened same, and that he was instructed to write letters in the tenor in which these were written. Not only was 10,000 mentioned in these letters but Mr. Cordasco admits that he mentioned that 10,000 men were wanted, to men coming into his office seeking employment, and several witnesses testified to his making such statement. Mr. Cordasco admitted that he owns the greater part of the paper *Corriere del Canada*, which is printed in Italian, and states that a number of copies of each issue are sent to Italy. His examination with reference to same is as follows:—

"Q. You advertise in the *Corriere del Canada*?—A. Yes, they have one of my advertisements calling for men.

'Q. Two or three advertisements in that paper?—A. Yes.

SESSIONAL PAPER No. 36b.

‘Q. How long have you been advertising in that paper?—A. Since November.

‘Q. You own it?—A. I do not.

‘Q. Do you not own the greater part of that paper?—A. Yes.

‘Q. And you object to being called proprietor?—A. Yes.

‘Q. You get paid for the advertising in that paper?—A. Yes, most of the people have to pay.

‘Q. How many copies did you send to your town?—A. About 25 or 30.

‘Q. How long have you been sending them to your town?—A. Since November.

‘Q. How many did you get printed?—A. Some times 450.

‘Q. Did you send one half to Italy?—A. Not quite, I suppose.

‘Q. About half?—A. 60.

‘Q. More than 60 to your own little village?—A. In my village I have many relatives.

‘Q. And you sent them every week?—A. Weekly.

‘Q. You get people to write articles in this paper for you?—A. Yes, to write articles some times.

‘Q. Scarrone wrote an article for you?—A. Yes, sir.

‘Q. You asked him to do so?—A. No, sir, never.

‘Q. Who suggested he should use your name in connection with the Canadian Pacific Railway?—A. I do not know.

‘Q. You remember his writing an article for you?—A. Yes, I did not ask him to do it.

‘Q. The *Corriere del Canada* has a long labour article?—A. February the 27th, 1904.

‘Q. It is headed “Italian Labourer” and it reads:

“The working season is approaching under a very promising aspect. The principal companies have in the past few winter months estimated for a large amount of work, and will give employment to a more considerable number of men than in other years. The greatest and most sincere friend of the Italian labourers, Mr. Antonio Cordasco, of Montreal, the sole Italian agent for the most important railway company in the world, the Canadian Pacific Railway, proposes himself to give, in the coming season, work to as many labourers as may apply to him. What he proposes to do himself cannot but be realized owing to the enormous amount of work the Canadian Pacific Railway will do this year.

“This company, which, both for the extension of its lines and for its capital, is the finest among railway companies, and it is considered also as the most important proprietor of land, owning 14,000,000 acres. It has always employed a larger number of labourers than any other company and with higher wages. Mr. Cordasco, the sole agent of the company, never betrayed the confidence that was put in him, not only fulfilling his duty as an agent, but assisting and protecting Italian labourers, and the good reputation he enjoys among the different companies and contractors is the best guarantee for the labourers employed through him.

“But the most splendid proof of that has been given by two thousand labourers, who in orderly parade, demonstrated a few days ago in Montreal that they did not forget what was done for them, and even if there were no other proof, this would be sufficient to show the philanthropic work of Antonio Cordasco.

“The spontaneous demonstration by two thousand men in a town where Italians are not counted by hundreds of thousands was most flattering for the person honoured, and we cordially congratulate Mr. Antonio Cordasco.

“What we say is not flattery, for we very well know that Mr. Cordasco, as a business man, does not care for that. It is only to sympathize with him for what he does for the Italian labourers who come here ready to fight against any kind of adversity, and who find in Cordasco a father, a friend, who not only helps and protects them, but puts them in a position to provide for their families and their aged parents.

"But as if all that was not enough, he has instituted a solid bank, through which anybody can send money to any part of Italy within a few days.

"We trust that the benevolent action of A. Cordasco will last for years and years, for the welfare of our labourers, and we cannot help to let his name be known to everybody, so that our compatriots will know when landing here that they will find a friend waiting for them."

'A. I never ordered that, I never ordered this man to put in one line of that kind.

'Q. Turn up the letter to Mr. Scarrone ?—A. I never ordered him to send such an article.

'Q. Did he not send that article to you to be printed ?—A. He sent it to be printed.

'Q. And you saw it before it was printed ?—A. Yes.

'Q. You had it printed ?—A. Yes.

'Q. You sent that paper all over Italy ?—A. Sixty in Italy besides my town.

'Q. You wrote on February the 9th ?—A. That was the very day when I was in bed.

'Q. You say: "I have received yours of the 7th instant and I thank you very much for the kind words you wrote in your correspondence, of which I am proud. But I am sorry that I cannot publish this correspondence as I do not wish the readers to know that I am the capitalist and administrator of the *Corriere del Canada*."

"If I should place this before the readers they will say that I sing my own praises, that I order others to praise me; so you can (and I thank you for that) send articles on the work and solidity of the Canadian Pacific Railway, but do not tell the readers that I belong to this newspaper.

"You may say this privately to your advertisers and subscribers. I like the principle of your correspondence, which is well written, but you understand that it is no use to let the people know that I have a share in the newspaper for the above reason.

"If you send for Monday a good article on the work of the Canadian Pacific Railway, I shall publish it with the greatest of pleasure. I take the opportunity to thank you for the kind reception you gave to my traveller, Mr. Ianuzzi.

"Please tell me if you received the newspapers. I will be glad if you will confirm that you accept to represent the *Corriere del Canada* on the condition proposed.

"Please send me your cut, for I wish to introduce you to the readers by publishing it.

"Wishing you good business, and hoping to receive on Monday an article to publish as correspondence from Toronto.

"Yours truly,

"ANTONIO CORDASCO."

'Q. You advertised in *La Patria Italiana* ?—A. Yes, about a month or two ago, a couple of months ago.

'Q. Did you put in advertisements for some time ?—A. Yes.

'Q. Some friend put one in ?—A. Yes.

'Q. Was that the one about the ten thousand men ?—A. Yes, I remember he put in an advertisement asking for men.'

The evidence shows that the newspapers and cards referred to in the above letters and sent by Cordasco to Italy were distributed there and resulted in a number of Italian labourers coming to Montreal, as shown by Mr. Cordasco's letters to Paretti in March and April above set out and also shown by the evidence of several of the witnesses, among whom were Antonio Sicari, Francesco Picimento and Saverio Cresavi.

Antonio Sicario being examined, stated that he arrived here on May 15 from Reggio, Calabria.

SESSIONAL PAPER No. 36b.

'Q. What made you think of coming here ?—A. They sent so many newspapers and circulars, and some representatives.

'Q. Who sent them ?—A. A man named Pasano, he paid for many men.

'Q. How many ?—A. In my village about twenty.

'Q. Where did he direct you to go ?—A. He gave the address to each man, and told us to go to Cordasco, and we paid 450 francs.

'Q. All ?—A. Yes, all. I paid 450 francs, there were ninety of us paid the same amount.

'Q. Where were you directed to go ?—A. To Cordasco, they gave us his name and address.

'Q. What did you do in New York ?—A. We were visited and examined and come direct to Montreal, and went to Cordasco and paid him \$3.

'Q. How many men came with you in the same vessel ?—A. 750 Italians.

'Q. Did they all come to Montreal ?—A. I think there remained about thirty in New York.

'Q. Had they the address of Cordasco, all these men ?—A. Yes.

'Q. Did you see any circulars from Cordasco ?—A. Oh, yes, there were lots, and newspapers.

'Q. What was on the circular ?—A. It stated that any man that could come would make plenty of money, so that we came to this country and left our families.

'Q. Did the circulars state how many men were wanted ?—A. They stated that every man should like to come, because he would make lots of money.

'Q. Did they state the wages ?—A. Yes, sir.

'Q. How much ?—A. From 7.50 to 10 lire per day, stone mason, 15 lire, or about \$3 a day.

'Q. Did you get any employment since you came here ?—A. We were promised work from day to day and some got work.

'Q. How many did get work, between six and seven hundred ?—A. I do not know, because we did not stay in the same place.

'Q. Were there many without money ?—A. No one had money.

'Q. How were you supported ?—A. Well, our families helped us some, and others helped us.

'Q. What is the name of the steamer you came in ?—A. Santo Trado.

'Q. What line ?—A. The Italian General Navigation Company.'

Francesco Picimento stated that he was nineteen years of age, arrived in Montreal on April 25 from Reggio Calabria in the steamer Ingle Terra.

'Q. Who paid your passage coming over ?—A. I paid myself.

'Q. How much ?—A. \$34.20.

'Q. How many came out with you ?—A. From the same village there were about thirteen or fourteen.

'Q. From all parts ?—A. 1,800 with the sailors.

'Q. How many came to Montreal ?—A. Fourteen came to Montreal.

'Q. Did you come direct to Montreal ?—A. The ship arrived in New York.

'Q. How many men came from the ship through from New York to Montreal ?—

A. Fourteen from my place, I do not know about the rest.

'Q. Were there many ?—A. Yes.

'Q. Did you see any papers to induce you to come here ?—A. Yes, sir.

'Q. What were they ?—A. They came from Montreal.

'Q. What name was on them ?—A. Cordasco Bank.

'Q. Who showed you these papers or gave them to you ?—A. Some gentleman from that place.

'Q. They left the papers with you ?—A. Yes, he had lots of papers.

'Q. What did the papers say ?—A. All those who wished could come to Montreal and make plenty of money.

'Q. Did you come out in the same boat as Antonio Sicari ?—A. No, before him, the ship before.

'Q. How long before you came out did you see the circulars?—A. They commenced to post circulars in February, two years before.

'Q. You saw that circular two years ago?—A. There was a circular telling them to come here and make money.

'Q. Whose name was on the last circular?—A. I do not remember.

'Q. Do you remember the name on the Montreal circular?—A. Yes.

'Q. Whose name?—A. Antonio Cordasco, Montreal.

'Q. Did you apply to Cordasco for work?—A. Yes.

'Q. Did you give Cordasco any money?—A. Yes, I paid \$3.

'Q. What for?—A. I paid because he asked for it, so as to send me to work in the country.

'Q. Did he send you to work in the country?—A. No, sir.

'Q. Did you ask for the money back?—A. Yes.

'Q. And Cordasco refused to pay?—A. He said, 'Why do you want it, you will be on a gang that will start to-morrow.'

'Q. Have you any means of paying your way?—A. No, sir.

'Q. How are you supported?—A. I have no more money, I was obliged to work for fifty cents a day, it ceased the other day.

'Q. Are you working now?—A. No, sir.

'Q. Do you know any men in Montreal who came from your village this spring?—A. There is a cousin of mine here.'

Saverio Cresavi stated that he arrived in this country on May 15 from Reggio Calabria, having paid his passage out on the steamer *The Piedmonte* of the *La Veloce* line.

'Q. What induced you to come out?—A. I saw the others starting for this country and I felt like doing the same.

'Q. How many came out on the same boat?—A. 550.

'Q. Did you all come to Montreal?—A. No, sir, only twenty-five.

'Q. Where did the others go?—A. To New York.

'Q. Did any of them come afterwards from New York to Montreal?—A. I do not know.

'Q. Did you apply to Cordasco for work?—A. Yes, sir.

'Q. How did you come to do that?—A. He said if you have \$3 you will go to work, and I paid the \$3.

'Q. Did you get a job?—A. No, sir.

'Q. Have you asked for a job more than once?—A. Yes, I asked every day.

'Q. What did Cordasco say?—A. Well, all right, you can go to-morrow, but I never went.

'Q. Did you ask for your money?—A. Yes, sir.

'Q. What did Cordasco say?—A. He said he would not return the money, but to wait until I got a job.'

Guiseppe Mignella, being examined, stated:—

'Q. Did you know any of the Italians that came from Italy during the spring?—A. I knew some.

'Q. How many?—A. I knew three from my own place and some from other places.

'Q. Who brought them out?—A. Fratello, who stated to me they had consulted Cordasco's newspapers.'

Mr. H. Laporte, Mayor of Montreal, in his evidence said:—

'Q. Did you know he (Cordasco) was interested in bringing them (the Italians) out?—A. Well, I have the names of a few agents, Mr. Cordasco, who I understand claimed he had large contracts from railway companies which he must fill, and he brought out a certain number of men.

SESSIONAL PAPER No. 36b.

'Q. Did he mention about how many he would require on the railway?—A. He mentioned last year about 10,000 would find employment.

'Q. That he wanted 10,000?—A. He expected that number would be required this year.

'Q. When was this he said that?—A. It was on the first or second of June.'

Count Francesco Mazza, Italian Consul General in Canada, gave the following evidence:—

'Q. Were you in a position to ascertain what was the reason for this excessive immigration?—A. It seems that persons interested in having immigrants come to Canada so as to employ them have written to Italy, and sent advertisements in order to have people come here.

'Q. That is not with your approval, or with the approval of the Italian government?—A. On the contrary, it is in opposition to the wishes of the Italian government and the wish of the consulate.'

Mr. James B. Mack, Vice-President of the Dominion Trades and Labour Council, and labour editor of the Montreal 'Star,' stated:—

'Q. Mr. Mack, whose names did these Italians who went to your office mention in connection with bringing them from Italy?—A. They mentioned Mr. Cordasco and several others; at that time I was not so much interested in it as now.

'Q. Did they tell you the methods by which they were induced to come?—A. They had been induced by letters, circulars, and some of them cards, some on their own responsibility, others had wished to come to see if there were any good propositions in Canada, more wages, no need for any man to be out of employment in the Dominion of Canada.'

Chevalier Charles Honore Catelli, the President of the Italian Immigration Aid Society No. 1, Montreal, being examined, gave the following evidence:—

'Q. Have you formed any opinion as to the chief cause of this excessive immigration, will you give it to us?—A. Some Italians came to see me, when I asked them why they came here they said they had been sent by Mr. Paretti, of Udine.

'Q. How many were there?—A. There were five or six. They went back.

'Q. Did they show any cards?—A. They had a book of addresses and set of cards at Paretti's office.

'Q. What were on the cards?—A. I did not notice, these people were told by Mr. Paretti that Signor Cordasco was a large contractor in Montreal and wanted eight or ten thousand men.

'Q. They were told that in Italy?—A. Yes.

'Q. That induced them to come to this country?—A. Yes.

'Q. They have now gone back to Italy?—A. I was told they had gone back.

'Q. This is a statement by these men: "We, the undersigned, declare as follows: That at the moment of leaving Italy for Canada, Mr. Antoni Parretti has read and shown us a letter signed by Antonio Cordasco, in which he asks for 8,000 or 10,000 labourers from the Province of Venete, and in which he promises immediate work as soon as we get to destination. Besides this we saw circulars and newspapers coming from Montreal, with the photograph of Cordasco circulated in our province, encouraging the labourers to emigrate to Canada. Besides that Parretti distributed the address of Cordasco as above.

"Signed by ten Italians."

'Q. Is that a correct translation?—A. Yes, sir, that is about what they told me.

'Q. Do you remember receiving a letter of complaint from some Italians at North Bay?—A. Yes.

'Q. Is this a proper translation of it :—

"States that the men were pretty nearly starving up at North Bay; they had got some help from another man who came from Montreal. If it had not been for him they would have died, some of them. Now would be the time to ask Mr. Cordasco where is that work which he had when he said he would employ 8,000 or 10,000 labourers, in the letter he wrote to Antonio Parretti, agent of La Veloce Udine. About twenty of us at Venete can prove this. Mr. Parretti read to us a great many times the letter of Mr. Cordasco. You must pardon my speaking about Mr. Cordasco, but my conscience compels me to. I am only doing it with a view to stop this fraud, and they have had to mortgage everything to come to this country, with the hope that they would find a fortune; in exchange they are suffering hardships and misery.

"The day that I signed the declaration there were over twenty with me. Italians all over Canada tell you the same.

"To certify the truth of what I am saying I will sign with two of my friends.

"(Signed) ANTONIO COSANI,
"DEMURAZA GIOVANNI,
"VITTORIO VENTARUTTI."

'A. Yes, that is about the tenor of the letter.

'Q. Which you received from North Bay?—A. Yes.'

Mr. Ganna, clerk of Mr. Cordasco, in his evidence stated:—

'Q. How many came from Calabria here?—A. I think in Montreal direct from Italy they did not come more than three or four from that province.

'Q. How many came from Chiasso?—A. That is another question, from Chiasso there came about eighteen or twenty, having business cards printed by Mr. Cordasco.

'Q. Who do you think they were sent by, Ludwig for Cordasco?—A. Yes, he sent his paper to about twenty young men coming to Montreal. Mr. Cordasco wrote the men last October, I do not remember the date.

'Q. How many came through Paretti?—A. I know of twelve.

Upon the declaration of the ten Italians, dated April 22 being read, Mr. Ganna said:

'Q. I remember that very well, because they came to the office, and afterwards went to the immigration office and told them; I remember that very well.

'Q. Will you look at that letter-book, page 60, Mr. Ganna, November 4, 1903?—A. Yes, your Honour.

'Q. This is the letter:

"MONTREAL, November 4, 1903.

"GEO. A. RINGLAND, Esq.,

"General Passenger Agent

"Canadian Pacific Steamship Line, Atlantic Service,

"6 St. Sacramento St., Montreal.

"DEAR SIR,—I represent nine different lines, as per the attached list, and I think I could do considerable business with your company. I do not refer to business to Italy, but I have had a number of inquiries for tickets to Liverpool and London, and I think I could sell a good many for you.

"For references as to financial standing, please refer to the Dominion Bank, or if you require a bond, I am willing to put it up. I will also refer you to Mr. G. E. Burns, chief of the Labour Department, for whom I have been supplying men for a number of years.

"I also supply men for the Grand Trunk, and a large number of contractors and railway companies in Canada, and in the course of the year get in touch with probably 6,000 or 7,000 Italians.

SESSIONAL PAPER No. 36b.

"Will you kindly let me know what you can do for me in the above and oblige.

"Yours respectfully,

"A. CORDASCO."

'A. I did not write that letter.

'Q. Whose signature is that to that letter in that letter-book?—A. That is Mr. Cordasco's own signature.

'Q. What steamship line does he write to there?—A. This is a French line; I wrote this letter from a copy he gave me.

'Q. He wrote it first and you copied it for him?—A. I think so, I have copied this for him.

'Q. This is the letter:

"MONTREAL, November 14, 1903.

"Compagnie Generale Transatlantique,

"General Agency for Canada,

"1672 Notre Dame Street, Montreal.

"GENTLEMEN,—I hereby beg to apply for the third-class rate steamship tickets for your line. I represent nine different lines as per the attached list, and I think I could do business with your company.

"I have a number of inquiries for tickets, and I think I could sell a good many for you.

"For reference as to financial standing, please refer to Dominion Bank or Hochelaga Bank or Toronto Bank. I will also refer to Mr. G. E. Burns, chief of Labour Department of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, for whom I have been supplying men for a number of years.

"I also supply men for the Grand Trunk and a large number of contractors and railway companies, &c., in Canada, and in the course of the year I get in touch with probably 6,000 or 7,000 Italians.

"Will you kindly let me know what you can do for me in the above, and oblige.

"Yours respectfully,

"ANTONIO CORDASCO,

"Per A. GANNA."

'Q. Do you remember whether he got the agencies for these companies?—A. Yes, a few days after, I think about ten or fifteen days.

'Q. So this was before he wrote to the people in Italy for ten thousand men?—A. I do not remember the date of that letter.

'Q. These were in November, 1903, and your letters were early in 1904.'

Mr. Alberto Dini admitted the following advertisement was inserted in the issues of *La Patria Italiana* of January 14 and 21, 1904, namely:

"For the coming spring Mr. Dini announces that there will be a very large demand for perhaps 10,000 labourers for the coming spring. Italian workingmen know that Mr. Dini is the representative of very many construction companies, and also are aware of the proverbial integrity with which he has in the past proven during the many years he has resided in Canada. Every one who wishes to be assured of work at good wages from the spring to the coming winter can go from the present time and be inscribed at the banking office of Mr. Dini, 2026 St. Catharine Street."

In his examination he gave the following evidence:

'Q. This is an advertisement of *La Patria Italiana*, that is your name?—A. I do not know who put it in.

'Q. See, there is a similar advertisement put in by Mr. Cordasco?—A. I cannot say; a man coming home, employed by *La Patria Italiana*, say, You will see Cordasco wants about 10,000 men, and I told do what you like. I do not give number. The paper came out and I see the advertisement.

'Q. It was not your authorization, you did not authorize it ?—A. No, sir. What papers say that ?

'Q. *La Patria Italiana* ?—A. Same paper.

'Q. Yes. What excuse had you, Mr. Dini for giving an advertisement calling for 10,000 Italians ?—A. I have not told to put in ten thousand. I told you they will reply to Cordasco's advertisement. I never told to put 10,000 or 5,000.

'Q. What was Cordasco's advertisement ?—A. I think about 10,000.

Q. How many Italians do you think you have succeeded in bringing here ?—A. I did not bring any at all.

'A. Mr. Cordasco says he brought in 12,000 in three years ?—A. Cordasco ? I do not know what he did, I have not bring men here at all.

'Q. Have you agents in Europe ?—A. No, sir.

'A card having been produced to Mr. Dini with his name on same he was asked : "That is given to persons ?—A. Given to persons coming from Chaisso to Montreal.

'Q. That is they are recommended to you by the Societa Anomina d'Emigrazione at Chiasso ?—A. Yes.

'Q. What you told me a minute ago was hardly correct ; you have given authority for these to be given to introduce men to you ?—A. Well, some times in the late summer labour is very scarce, and they want to go around to Quebec. When the ship arriving in Quebec and get labourers and he write to me. Said I know you have a good name, and if I like I recommend to you.

'Q. And that is what this card is for ?—A. Yes.

'Q. How did it get to Chiasso ?—A. I do not know ; probably the society gave it to him.

'Q. Do you know any one in Chiasso ?—A. Well, I see one man when I was in Italy last year. I say to one or two agents, if you send these men recommend to me. I can promise nothing if men come to Canada otherwise. I go and see that man you consult in Dolo Vico. I saw him and another in Chiasso.

'Q. Was that Ludwig ?—A. Yes.

'Q. What agreement did you enter into with Ludwig about bringing men over from Italy ?—A. No agreement ; I told him just a few words. He said, "Dini, you are here, I am glad to meet you. I think you do the best you can for the men. Give them your address, because the men complain when arrive in Montreal somebody else takes them." He says, he repeats, he complains, and that is the reason why I will send to you because there is no complaint at all.

'Q. How many men came to you this spring from Chiasso ?—A. I cannot tell exactly, probably 100, probably 200 ; I do not think more.

'Do you remember receiving that letter from the firm of Corecco & Brivio ?—A. Yes, sir.

'Q. This letter is dated May 7, 1904, and is from Bodio, Switzerland, and addressed to Mr. Alberto Dini, Montreal.

"You are already aware that our firm has had your address for several years, having during that time sent you a great number of labourers. They received from you all the help and information possible regarding work and we have no doubt that our sending you such men has caused some trouble.

"You are also aware that our firm is corresponding with the 'Societa Anonima d'Emigrazione, La Svizzera,' as well as with other agencies of emigration of Switzerland, which have been regularly and legally constituted.

"You do not ignore that a brother of Mr. Schenker, one of those who has opened an office in Montreal for the exchange of money in order to compete with you, has lately opened an office in Chiasso, Switzerland, and gets passengers from Italy through the help of Schenker who is in Montreal.

"The latter sends to his brother in Chiasso notices and orders for the shipment of men, and the brother reads the notices to the passengers mentioning the ships they ought to go by.

SESSIONAL PAPER No. 36b.

"Having had knowledge of this action on the part of Schenker we took the liberty of addressing ourselves to you in order to advise you and inform you thereof and to ask if it would be possible for you to do something for us in the matter.

"In order to facilitate the thing for those who wish to go to Montreal through friends, you can exact yourself in Montread the amount of the passage money. Send us an order for shipment, saying at the same time that you should pay us only 170 francs from Chiasso to Quebec. All that you can get above that from the interested parties will remain to your benefit.

"It is understood that our shipments will be executed as far as we are concerned with accuracy and precision.

"We enclose herewith a list of the dates of sailings of the ships of the C.P.R., plying from Antwerp, and we beg to reply to us and hope that the same may be favourable.

"We remain,

"CORECCO & BRIVIO."

"P.S.—You can interest yourself in another way by suggesting to those who want to get their people to Canada, to take or get transportation through our firm. Or you may give us the address of the immigrants so that we may write to them and offer them our services. When the shipment is finished we will send you a commission, such as it may be possible for us to pay."

'Q. Do you know this firm, Mr. Dini?—A. No, sir.

'Q. They say they have been communicating with you for several years?—A. Well, I told you yesterday that men coming from Chiasso gave me a card.

'Q. Very many men?—A. No, sir.

'Q. When did you receive this letter?—A. I do not remember, in April or May.

'Q. What did you do on the receipt of it?—A. I never answered it.'

Mr. Dini was in error when he stated that he did not give any instructions to have the advertisement inserted in *La Patria Italiana*. Mr. Di Rosa in his evidence states:

'Q. You are editor of *La Patria Italiana*?—A. Yes, chief editor.

'Q. Do you remember Mr. Alberto Dini asking you to write out an advertisement calling for 10,000 labourers?—A. Yes, sir.

'Q. This advertisement was published January 14 and 21 last, 'For the coming spring, &c.?' did Mr. Dini ask you to write that?—A. Yes, the first time.

'Q. And it was repeated in other editions?—A. Yes, many times.

'Q. What is the circulation of your paper?—A. From 1,200 to 1,300.

'Q. Dini said here the other day that he knew nothing about this advertisement, he saw it only afterwards?—A. He came himself to my office and asked me to write the advertisement.

'Q. Where did Dini tell you to write it, at what place?—A. In the newspaper office.'

Means and Methods Adopted to Bring About Immigration.

In addition to the means and methods to which I have already referred, the evidence shows that Mr. Cordasco employed agents in the United States for the purpose of hiring Italians for the C.P.R., he also had printed letter headings and envelopes bearing the Italian crest, the envelopes being in different colours, green, blue, yellow and brown. In his evidence with reference to these, he stated:

'Q. Does not that crest belong to Italy?—A. It is not the full crown of Italy.

'Q. On arrival in Italy they would think that came from the King?—A. I do not know that, your Honour.

'Q. You had these envelopes in different colours, green, blue, yellow and brown, these are all Antonio Cordasco's crests?—A. Yes, your Honour.

'Q. Why did you put the Italian crest upon them without authority?—A. I did not do it myself, Ganna did it.

'Q. You have the crest upon all your letter paper and envelopes, even upon that banquet invitation?—A. All through Ganna, I was sending nobody.

'Q. You had no authority to allow you to print the coat of arms on your envelopes?—A. I am ready to take it off if your Honour wishes.

'Q. Was not that done for the purpose of making these poor immigrants think you were connected with the Italian government, and that you were really the King of Labour?—A. I will cut them off. Of course I asked Ganna; he is not responsible, it is not a full crown."

It was further shown that at least one or two persons went from Montreal to Italy for the purpose of bringing out Italian labourers. With respect to these the following evidence was given by Mr. Cordasco:

'Q. You know Mr. Marcucci?—A. I never saw him.

'Q. When did Mr. Marcucci go over to Italy?—A. Marcucci, I don't know anything about him.

'Q. He was sent over from Canada to bring these men out to this country?—A. I never sent him there.

'Q. Did you ever hear of that before?—A. I never heard if this man went from Canada to Italy for men.

'Q. You know Boconcelli?—A. Yes.

'Q. Was Marcucci only employed?—A. I have heard him mentioned, but I do not know this man.

'Q. Then Marcucci did go from Canada?—A. I do not know, I think Boconcelli sent him.

'Q. What did he send him for?—A. I do not know.

'Q. How many tickets did Boconcelli get from you to bring men out?—A. About 13 or 14 men, the books show it.

'Q. How much did Boconcelli pay for the tickets?—A. \$36.65 from Naples to Montreal; \$30 from Naples to New York; \$6.65 from New York to Montreal.

'Q. Did he buy tickets direct from Naples to Montreal?—A. Yes.

'Q. What is your profit on each ticket you sell?—A. In this company I think \$7.

'Q. How many tickets had you issued?—A. 14 tickets to Boconcelli.

'Q. Who directed him to do all that work, you?—A. Yes.

'Q. You instructed him?—A. For this work, yes.

'Q. Boconcelli was a great friend of yours?—A. No friend of mine, no relation.

'Q. Never mind the relations, you lent him money?—A. Yes.

'Q. How much?—A. About \$380.

'Q. Now you sent Marcucci over to Italy with these tickets?—A. I know nothing about that, I heard he sent him.

'Q. Heard of it after he bought the tickets. Marcucci came back again?—A. I never heard of it.

'Q. Heard about it?—A. Boconcelli told me, that is all I know.

'Q. How much did he charge these men?—A. I do not know.

'Q. You heard?—A. I did not.

'Q. What is the use of saying, you told me you did, they charged these unfortunate men \$60 for every \$30 ticket sold, Boconcelli said it?—A. He probably did, I do not know whether he got \$60, \$65 or \$70.

'Q. You are swearing to it, how much did he charge these men?—A. I think Boconcelli said he was going to charge \$60.

'Q. Now, you have given money to Boconcelli, gave him \$100, took a \$125 note for it on demand?—A. That is all business.

SESSIONAL PAPER No. 36b.

'Q. You sent him out as foreman?—A. I did that.

'Q. One of the first men?—A. On July 16.

'Q. He gave you a list of his men?—A. Yes.

'Q. He brought these Italians with him?—A. I don't know, I gave him \$35.

'Q. How was Boconcelli to get this \$60 from those men?—A. I do not know.

'Q. Yes, you talked the matter over with him, you were to get money from him?—A. I lent him money to accommodate.

'Q. It was to come out of his wages?—A. Yes, whenever he got them.

'Q. That was understood?—A. Yes.

'Q. These men were to pay their money out of their wages?—A. I had nothing to do with him.

'Q. You loaned Boconcelli the money because he brought men out, sold tickets and was to get it out of their wages?—A. I only loaned him money.

'Q. The first note you took was for \$125, you paid him \$100?—A. Probably.

'Q. The second note was for \$65, how much did you pay him?—A. I do not remember.

'Q. The third note was for \$190, how much did you pay him, \$140?—A. Probably.

'Q. These moneys you said you were to be recouped as soon as he got his wages from the Canadian Pacific?—A. Whenever he earns it.

'Q. He was also to receive money from these men brought out from Italy?—A. I do not know, he told me that they owe him an amount of money.

'Q. He was to get their wages to pay it?—A. I do not know.

'Q. He told you?—A. He was looking to the men to pay the money.

'Q. Because he was to get their wages, every man of them, was not that the case, he was to get their wages?—A. That is what he said.'

Mr. Ganna, in his examination, stated as follows:

'Q. Do you remember Nicola Maroni?—A. He had seven or eight steamship offices in Montreal.

'Q. Is he here now?—A. Not at present.

'Q. Who were the men he brought out?—A. This I cannot tell.

'Q. How did he come to send so many men?—A. I remember he came twice.

'Q. Did he come in the same ship as Boconcelli?—A. Perhaps, one time I think he came with Boconcelli, I am not sure, yes, he came about the same time.

'Q. He came on the same day, on January 11?—A. In January, yes.

'Q. Do you know how many tickets he purchased?—A. I cannot tell you exactly.

'Q. Boconcelli and Maroni, there are seven marked there?—A. Yes.

'Q. Do you know how much he charged these men going out?—A. I do not know what Maroni charged.

'Q. Probably the same as Boconcelli, they were together?—A. Some people have told me that Boconcelli charged \$60, but I do not think this is true.

'Q. Mr. Boconcelli told that to Mr. Cordasco, that is what you heard?—A. Yes, perhaps.'

Persons Engaged in Promoting Italian Immigration.

The evidence shows that the only persons engaged directly or indirectly in Canada in promoting the immigration that took place were George E. Burns and Antonio Cordasco, acting on behalf of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, and Alberto Dini. The Schenker Brothers referred to in the Corecco & Brivio letter to Mr. Dini, had ceased doing business in Montreal some time previous to the immigration in question, and so far as the evidence showed, had nothing to do with same.

TREATMENT OF IMMIGRANTS BY AGENTS IN MONTREAL.

The evidence shows that there were at least 6,000 Italian immigrants in Montreal in the month of May last, many of whom had been induced to come to Canada by reason of the advertisements and representations made to them as above set forth. The evidence shows further that the Italian labourers could not obtain employment with the Canadian Pacific Railway without first paying Cordasco the sums demanded by him, Mr. Burns refused to employ any Italians unless through Cordasco. The Italian Immigration Aid Society, in order to relieve these men from this imposition, on March 5, 1903, wrote to Mr. McNicoll, General Manager of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, as follows:—

“DEAR SIR,—We noticed in yesterday’s *Star* that your company and sub-agents fear not to be able to secure a sufficient number of labourers to carry on all the estimated work for the coming season.

“Two months ago we applied to your company, proposing to supply all the labourers you might need, and now we beg to apply to you personally stating again that:

“You can trust on us for any number of men you may require, even for thousands.

“We shall supply these men without any charge whatsoever for the company, and shall act as interpreters and do all the work, so as to prevent any kind of trouble or annoyance for the officers and employees of the company.

“Our society being under the control and subsidized by the Italian government, we may have good, sober and honest people coming to us through the Emigration Office in Rome, that would never allow criminals or sick men to come here.

“Later on, when the railway work will be over, we shall try to settle those men on land and make them good and industrious Canadian citizens.

“As our principal aim is to protect our countrymen against any kind of swindlers, of whom they have been victims until now, we try to secure the good-will and co-operation of all the companies that engage Italian labourers, the Canadian Pacific Railway Company first, as the most important of the Dominion, offering our services for the allotment of the men.

“Two months ago we sent to the Canadian Pacific Railway Company fifty copies of our by-laws, and as perhaps they did not reach you, we beg to send to you another one of them, from which you may see that our work is highly moral, and that it deserves to be taken into consideration.

“Please address yourself to our office, where you will find our agent always at your disposal for any information your company may require.

“Trusting to hear from you very soon, so as to put us in condition to be always ready to meet your requests.

“Yours truly,

“C. MARIOTTI, *Sec.-treasurer.*

“The Immigration Aid Soc., No. 1.”

To this letter they received the following reply:—

“March 16, 1903.

“C. C. MARIOTTI, Esq.,

Sec.-treas. Immigration Aid Society, No. 1,

“906 Lagauchetière St., Montreal.

“DEAR SIR,—Referring to your letter of the 5th inst., directed to the second vice-president and general manager of the company, and also referring to the conversation with the delegation representing your society which took place in my office some days ago, I would state I have taken up the question of the employment of labour with the proper authorities, and have to advise you that it is not the intention of this company to change the arrangements for the employment of Italian labour, which have been in

SESSIONAL PAPER No. 36b.

vogue during the past few years; our present system has given entire satisfaction so far, and I therefore regret I shall be unable to place direct with your society any specific order for any number of men.

"Yours truly,
"G. E. BURNS,
Special Agent."

A number of Italians gave their evidence before me showing that Cordasco demanded a fee of \$1 for registering the name of the applicant, as labourer, and \$10 as foreman or interpreter; that he subsequently demanded from the labourer \$2 to \$3 as a further fee before he would recommend them for employment; after receiving these sums of money he did not get employment for them; and refused to repay the sums so obtained. A number of these men had to bring suit against him for the return of moneys so paid, and under a judgment he was compelled to repay certain of these sums.

Mr. Cordasco in his evidence with reference to the receipt of these sums of money admitted same.

It was admitted that there were at least sixty-three foremen since the beginning of November, 1903, up to May or June, 1904, the greater number of whom paid \$10 each; and that there were 3,916 men registered, of whom 400 paid \$4 each. Cordasco in his evidence stated:

"The men paid me \$1 in December, \$2 in March; later on in June they came along and wanted to get registered, and they forced me to take more money."

'Q. You were making out a statement last night as to the number of men who registered with you this year?—A. My bookkeeper has got it, I think.

'Q. From the statement that you produced; Mr. Cordasco, there appears to be sixty-three foremen?—A. Well, yes.

'Q. Have these men all paid?—A. Three have not paid.

'Q. If all had paid it would be \$630?—A. I received \$10 unless for three men, this would be \$600.

'Q. Then I see 3,916 men, is that right?—A. It is right.

'Q. You received from these \$5,656?—A. Yes.

'Do you know what rate they paid?—A. Some \$1 and some \$3.

'Q. How much did you charge the Canadian Pacific Railway?—A. I did not receive anything, I did not care.

'Q. You charged \$5 a day when you were sending them out before this arrangement?—A. Yes, if I did a full day's work.

'Q. Is that statement of the charge at \$5 during last year up to the end of December, 1903?—A. Yes.

'Q. You received from the C.P.R. \$1,456 up to the end of last year, how much this year?—A. Only a few dollars for January, February and March, I cannot say whether it was \$400 or more.

'Q. Now, you say there are over 404 paid \$4 who had been registered twice, have they work yet?—A. No.

'Q. You got their \$4?—A. Yes, I am going to give them back.

'Q. You got \$3 from each of these men between the 5th and 12th July, you got over \$600 from these men?—A. If they want the money back I will give it to them to-night.

'Q. Mr. Cordasco, how much money have you received from all those you have employed?—A. Ganna has got the figures, he has done my work, and I will take what he says.'

Mr. Ganna gave the following evidence:

'Q. Do you know how much Cordasco makes in a year out of these people?—A. I cannot tell you, because I have not been with him a year; for about six months I can say about \$7,000.

'Q. Out of men for six months?—A. No, out of the men altogether, out of the men registered now. You have that list, the amount is \$6,121.

'Q. How much from the Canadian Pacific Railway during the same months?—A. That changes every month, some times \$270, sometimes \$300, I think in July about \$600, because 300 have left for work, and they had some provisions.

'Q. How much would that be in addition to the \$6,121?—A. \$1 for each man.

'Q. How many for six months this year?—A. Of this year, \$727.

'Q. How many steamship tickets from Italy for these men?—A. I think about 125 from Italy, and he gets \$7.

'Q. That is only one company, how much from every company?—A. About 105 or \$735.

'Q. In connection with these men he therefore makes pretty nearly \$16,000 a year on them?—A. In one year? I know only these months.

'Q. Well, then, from October to October?—A. I suppose so.

'Q. That \$20 referred to in Franco's letter was received by him because he wanted a position as foreman?—A. Yes.

'Q. How high does Mr. Cordasco go in his demands for money for getting positions as foremen?—A. Nothing, he wrote himself and sent \$20 instead of \$10 because he hoped to get work before some others."

In addition to the sums charged by Cordasco to these Italian labourers he was authorized by the Canadian Pacific Railway to supply them with food on their journey from Montreal to their destination, he received \$5 per day for every day that he worked for the Canadian Pacific Railway, whether for looking after Italians or other work including the obtaining and forwarding of the provisions. He charged up the provisions to the company, who in turn charged them up against the men *pro rata*, and deducted same out of their first wages, paying these sums so charged by Cordasco to him. In connection with these charges the following evidence was given:

Mr. Skinner, who is labour agent for the Canadian Pacific Railway, and had charge under the superintendence of Mr. Burns, of the employment of all Italians, certifies the accounts of Cordasco from month to month.

He gave the following evidence:—

'Q. In addition to that, I see he supplies Italians going a distance with provisions?—A. He does.

'Q. These provisions are charged against their wages?—A. Yes.

'Q. Who checks the accounts for such supplies?—A. I check them.

'Q. How do you check them, what means do you take to see they are correct?—A. Well, the first thing I do is to see whether I think he has supplied enough or too much stuff for the parties leaving, and then I look over the prices charged for each item.

'Q. You look over the prices charged for each item, and ascertain if they are correct, by what means?—A. The only way to ascertain, I judge.

'Q. You understand he just charges the amount he pays for these articles?—A. I understand the articles are bought from him. He adds an amount for what he thinks a fair price.

'Q. Are the articles bought from him?—A. The articles are bought from him.

'Q. On your order?—A. On Mr. Burns' order.

'Q. You pay him for getting these things?—A. Oh, no, he is not paid for getting them.

SESSIONAL PAPER No. 36b.

'Q. Would you look at the items of March 15, 1904 (hands him Cordasco's account)?—A. March 15, yes, I see.

'Q. Services rendered in sending provisions to Westward train; it is O.K.'d, that is a \$5 item?—A. That is not for Italian labour.

'Q. It is for Chinese; it is a charge against you, the only difference is that you did not get it back from the Chinese, but you did from the Italians. He charged \$5 for that day. \$54.05 for these provisions; look at the account?—A. Yes, \$54.05.

'Q. He bought them for \$37.95 the same day?—A. I am not aware.

'Q. There is an account produced by Mr. Cordasco; \$16.10 made on that little item of \$37.95. What means have you taken to find out what were the prices of the articles supplied to the Italians and Chinese?—A. I have taken no means, I have looked at Cordasco's account.

'Q. Without knowing whether they were reasonable or not?—A. I just went on my own judgment.

'Q. Look at the April account you passed. What is the charge he makes there for shipping men?—A. Charges \$5.

'Q. For that he gives provisions on that date?—A. He only gets \$5 for shipping and loading provisions.

'Q. That is all he is entitled to, that is bread for your men. Now, what is the account for provisions?—A. \$152.

'Q. As you see (showing account) the original cost of these various items was \$94.72?—A. I never saw that before.

'Q. But could you not have found it out from any person doing business in Montreal. These Italians had to pay \$152 for what was purchased for \$94.72?—A. At the same time I gathered from this statement that they were not paying any more than they would be obliged to pay for themselves.

'Q. The Canadian Pacific Railway were paying Mr. Cordasco for acting in the interest of these Italians. They were your employees; now, what means did you take, as a servant of the Canadian Pacific Railway to find out that you were getting articles at the lowest price for these men?—A. In reply, I can only say I scanned Cordasco's account item by item, and if the items were reasonable I passed them.

'Q. Without knowing what they could be bought for elsewhere?—A. Yes.

'Q. So you see he gets \$5 a day, and how much from the unfortunate people who have to pay for these supplies going out west?—A. \$152 less \$94.72, \$57.28 he gets out of that.

'Q. Don't you think that is a little more than fair, he is your servant, he has to supply these articles, has he not?—A. I quite see the point.

'Q. Why should you allow him to make money out of these men?—A. It is not a great hardship, the cost to the men.'

In explanation of these accounts Mr. Burns in his evidence stated:—

'As regards sardines, I went into the matter once, I think last year. I spoke to Cordasco. He admitted having charged too much, and he put the price at ten cents, which gave still a good margin. I do not know what he charged; I did not care, he was looking after the matter, and if he was not giving away the goods for nothing it would simply mean he had a good business contract, and the cost of the goods supplied by him to the Canadian Pacific Railway I had nothing to do with except, to go over his accounts and to see the retail prices at the grocery stores were not overstepped.'

'Q. You pay Cordasco \$5 a day during the time he is employed in any work for the Canadian Pacific Railway?—A. Yes.

'Q. The work consisted of getting provisions for these men when necessary?—A. That is separate.

'Q. He charged \$5 for supplying provisions?—A. I had noticed it in the accounts.

'Q. Supposing now that instead of Cordasco getting provisions you got them, would you charge a profit?—A. None whatever.

'Q. He is, in your position, gets paid for that work?—A. I do not understand it that way.

'Q. That is, he not only gets \$5, but charges a profit on everything he buys?—A. Not the Canadian Pacific Railway.

'Q. It is far worse if it is not the Canadian Pacific Railway; it is against these unfortunate Italians who do not know anything about prices?—A. I do not know if the prices are not excessive.

'Q. There should not be one cent profit if Cordasco was paid for the service?—A. That is one way of looking at it. I always regarded that as his prerogative.

'Q. You were quite willing that these Italians should pay double prices for these things?—A. He has a right to make some profit.

'Q. There is an account for \$152, how much did he actually pay; the statement is added there?—A. \$94.72.

'Q. Now, then, supposing we pass from them to the Chinese, the Canadian Pacific Railway would pay for the provisions for the Chinese out of their own pocket, is not that so?—A. Yes, sir.

'Q. The provisions are charged against the Chinese on the same principle?—A. Yes.

'Q. You pay him \$5 per day for providing these provisions, look up the amount if you are not sure?—A. Yes, sir.

'Q. How many hundred dollars during the year has Mr. Cordasco made in this manner?—A. I would like to look over the accounts for information.

'Q. Will you kindly go over these accounts and find out what he has charged for provisions to Chinese and Italians and for services?—A. I will, Your Honour.

* * * * *

'Q. Have you gone over the statement for the last year to see what is the total amount charged for provisions?—A. I have taken all of 1903 and 1904 to date.

'Q. From the beginning of 1903 to June, 1904, how much does it amount to?—A. \$6,453.41.

'Q. Would that be paid by Italians only or by Italians and Chinese?—A. This would be by Italians and Chinese; the latter does not amount to a great deal.

'Q. Have you gone over the profits that were charged on these provisions by Cordasco?—A. As far as I could.

'Q. What would be the percentage?—A. About 63 per cent.

'Q. What would that amount to on the whole?—A. About \$3,600 or more.

'Q. Nearly \$4,000?—A. \$3,800; I will go over it again.'

Mr. Burns in his examination with reference to the payments made by the labourers to Cordasco stated that he understood Cordasco received \$10 from each foreman, and from \$1 to \$2 from each labourer; that he investigated certain complaints of greater charges than these having been made, but that he believed Cordasco in preference to those making the complaints. The evidence shows, however, that Mr. Burns is not candid in his answers relating to this matter. On March 21, 1904, Mr. Cordasco wrote Mr. Burns a letter in which he stated: 'I charged Italian labourers sometimes \$3, sometimes \$2, sometimes \$1, sometimes nothing; same thing for Italian interpreters, according to reason. I charge each of them from nothing up to \$15, according to ability of them if they are able to pay.'

Mr. Burns wrote a letter to Mr. Timmerman, general superintendent at Toronto, on the 17th May, 1904, in which Mr. Burns stated:

"Under the present condition, starting from this year, all Italians may be engaged through Cordasco's office for the Canadian Pacific Railway without the payment

SESSIONAL PAPER No. 36b.

of a single cent, but in the past as indicated in Cordasco's letter on April 29th he has not been out for his health, and I have no doubt has exacted his fee as is usual in such cases not only in Montreal, but all over the country, as probably you are aware."

Mr. Burns made a new arrangement with Cordasco in April, 1904, in consequence of a suit against the railway company brought by some Italian labourers for the return of the amounts charged by Cordasco, in which Judge Curran of Montreal held that the company were liable owing to the fact that their agent, Cordasco had received the moneys and had not given employment. The new arrangement was that Cordasco was not to charge the men anything whatever, but that the company would pay him the sum of \$1 for each man he employed for them. Although this arrangement was made in April, Cordasco still continued up to the commencement of the inquiry to collect up to \$4 from each labourer, and this with the knowledge of Mr. Burns.

The evidence shows that Mr. Dini charged \$1 only for obtaining employment for men, and nothing for foremen. Other intelligence agents charged from \$2 to \$3 for obtaining men, and no charge where employment was not given. It was also shown by evidence that Cordasco charged a fee from the labourers on giving them a free pass provided by the company.

Results of the Immigration upon Canadian Workingmen.

The evidence shows that the arrival of such a large number of immigrants interfered with the wages of the working men in Montreal. Mr. Honore Gervais, member of Parliament, representing the Division of St. James, Montreal, being asked what in his opinion would be the results on resident labourers in Montreal of the bringing in of such a large number of labourers stated:—

"I would think it would be most detrimental to the interests of resident labourers, because having to accept fixed salaries they have to make a scale that would cover the cost of living, and by the coming of these Italian labourers in such large numbers without a moment's warning to our shores, the scale of wages is destroyed because there are too many men willing to work at reduced rates, and thus our resident labourers are bound to suffer. Accordingly, on account of the sudden fall or decrease in wages generally, it is most detrimental to the workmen of Canada, to the workmen of Montreal, that at any moment some ten thousand men shall be thrown on our shores and come in competition with our workmen resident in Montreal."

Mr. Hannaford, engineer of the Montreal Street Railway Company, stated that they had 300 Italians in their service, and that they paid the ordinary labourers 12½ cents per hour, and that the sub-foremen received as high as \$1.37 a day, that the rate of wages in Montreal to ordinary labourers in other departments is \$1.50 per day, that they have no trouble in obtaining labourers; and in answer to the question "Well, you can get any number you wish at \$1.25 per day," he replied, "They come to us, we do not have to look for them."

Mr. J. B. Mack, upon being asked: "Will you state your opinion of the effect on the scale of wages in a city like Montreal, caused by the bringing in of large numbers of foreign labourers at one time," answered, "The effect of bringing in large numbers of foreign labourers, in my opinion, would be a reduction in wages, and probably pro-

longed hours of labour. When the labour market is flooded wages are not liable to increase, rather to decrease, and it is a benefit to capitalists or companies who employ large numbers of unskilled labourers to have a large immigration in order to have work performed at less cost.

‘Q. Can you tell the commission of certain classes of labour wherein the wages did go down?—A. I have been told that in various classes wages have been reduced.’

Mr. Charles Hodgson Osler, superintendent of mains and services in the Montreal Light, Heat and Power Company, stated that out of 250 or 260 men employed by the company 100 were Italians.

‘Q. You remember the influx of Italian labour last April and May?—A. Yes.

‘Q. Would that affect the scale of labour for labourers?—A. Yes, I think it would.

‘Q. These Italians only received from \$1.25 to \$1.35 a day?—A. Yes.

‘Q. Are there others besides Italians only receiving that amount?—A. Yes, quite a number.

Q. Who are they?—A. Well, some English and French speaking men.

Q. You get as many men as you require on your work without difficulty?—A. We have done it so far, we have had no trouble at all; we had a little trouble last year, but we increased the wages to \$1.45. We got lots of men this year at \$1.25, whereas we had to pay \$1.45 last year.

Q. I suppose there are the same number employed this year as last?—A. No, I have nearly double the quantity this year.

Q. The wages then dropped 20 cents?—A. Yes, there was a large influx of men, and we took advantage of labour as it came in.’

Findings and Recommendations.

I am of opinion the evidence fully establishes the fact that the large number of Italian immigrants who arrived in Montreal in the early part of 1904 were induced to come to this country through the efforts put forward by Mr. Cordasco representing himself to be the sole agent of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company and requiring 10,000 men, offering them good wages and immediate employment, and that these inducements were made by means of advertisements inserted in *La Patria Italiana* and *Corriere del Canada*, two newspapers published in the Italian language in Montreal, which he forwarded to Italy, and through the assistance of steamship agents in Italy with whom he corresponded on the subject.

Mr. Burns and Mr. Cordasco were most intimate in their dealings in connection with the employment of Italian laborers. This was so noticeable as to cause adverse criticism of Mr. Burns, it being claimed by some that he was financially interested with Mr. Cordasco in the employment of such laborers; this was denied by both. In my opinion, Mr. Burns had control of Mr. Cordasco's actions and was well aware of the sums that were being paid by the men employed for the Canadian Pacific Railway Company as also for the provisions supplied, but instead of preventing the collection of these extortionate sums, he refused to interfere when requested to do so.

Mr. Burns states that in December, 1903, he was told in New York by an agent that 10,000 men were being brought into the country for the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway, and that he believed this to be the fact. If he were so informed, he could by inquiry and the use of the most ordinary intelligence, have ascertained this to be a

SESSIONAL PAPER No. 36b.

false statement. Whether it was in consequence of this statement or not, Mr. Cordaseo appears to have at that time commenced his efforts as above described to obtain 10,000 men, and this without having any agreement with the Canadian Pacific Railway Company or any other employers of labour for the employment of men.

In my opinion, he so acted with the knowledge that these men must apply to him before obtaining employment on the Canadian Pacific Railway, and with the object of compelling them to pay him the large sums it is shown he received.

His dealing with these unfortunate men after their arrival in Montreal in demanding and receiving money on the promise of immediate employment, and afterwards refusing to return same when he could not furnish them with employment, indicates that his main object in inducing these immigrants to come to Montreal was for the purpose mentioned, and this he was enabled to do by Mr. Burns refusing to employ any Italians unless through him.

By obtaining steamship agencies he expected to be the better able to carry out his object; in obtaining these agencies he was assisted by Mr. Burns.

His evidence as to Buccinelli's dealings above set forth indicates the manner in which he intended to use his position as steamship agent.

In my opinion, the city of Montreal should pass a by-law similar to that enforced in Toronto respecting intelligence offices, which provides that every person who keeps an intelligence office for registering the names and residences of and giving information to or procuring services—labourers, workmen, clerks or employees for employers in want of the same, or for registering the names and residences of and giving information to or procuring employment for domestic servants, labourers, workmen, clerks or other persons seeking employment—should procure a license before being permitted to carry on that business. The by-law provides as follows:—

‘ INTELLIGENCE OFFICES.

19. ‘ Every keeper of an intelligence office shall keep posted up in a conspicuous place in his office, as shall be determined by the chief constable, his license, and also a copy of sections 19 to 23, inclusive, of this by-law, which shall be supplied to the licensee by the chief constable at the time of issuing the license .

20. ‘ Every person licensed to keep an intelligence office shall keep, in a conspicuous place on the outside thereof, a sign showing his name and indicating his office hours.

21. ‘ Every person licensed to keep an intelligence office shall keep a book, which shall be supplied to the licensee by the chief constable at the time of issuing the license, in which the licensee shall enter, at the time of application, the name and residence of any person who may apply for employment or who may make application to be supplied with any clerk, servant, labourer, workman other employee, and also any and all sums of money which may be received from any person for any such service ; and such book shall at all times be open to the inspection of the chief constable, or any inspector of police, or any other person in the employ of the police commissioners.

22. ‘ Every person licensed to keep an intelligence office shall be entitled to receive at the time of the application the following fees and no more:

‘ (1.) From every male applying for place or employment as servant, or labourer, or workmen, a sum not exceeding 50 cents; as clerk or skilled employee, coachman, butler, rockman, timekeeper or teamster having a team, \$1 ;

‘(2.) From every female applying for place or employment as domestic servant, or person employed by the day, a sum not exceeding 25 cents ; as governess, clerk or skilled employee, housekeeper, or cook, \$1;

‘(3) From every person making application for a male domestic servant, labourer or workman, a sum not exceeding 50 cents; for a clerk or other skilled employee, coachman, butler, rockman, timekeeper, or teamster having a team, \$1;

‘(4.) From every person making application for a female domestic servant, or person employed by the day, a sum not exceeding 50 cents; for a governess, clerk or other skilled employee, housekeeper or cook, \$1;

‘for which sum a receipt shall be given at the time of making application to the person so applying; and in the event of no place or employment being obtained as applied for, or no employee being obtained as applied for, within one week from the date of application, one-half the fees so paid shall be refunded on the demand of the person producing the receipt.

23. ‘Every person licensed to keep an intelligence office who shall directly or indirectly, or through any person, make or use any improper device, deceit, false representation, false pretences, or any imposition whatsoever, for any improper purpose, or for the purpose of obtaining a fee, money or gratuity, or other thing of value from any customer, person or patron, or who shall be guilty of extortion, or of taking or demanding any article or thing, or any fees except those authorized by this by-law, shall be subject to the penalties of this by-law.

PENALTY.

‘Except as hereinafter provided, any person convicted of a breach of any of the provisions of this by-law shall forfeit and pay, at the discretion of the convicting magistrate, a penalty not exceeding the sum of fifty dollars for each offence, exclusive of costs; and in default of payment of the said penalty and costs forthwith, the said penalty and costs, or costs only, may be levied by distress and sale of the goods and chattels of the offender; and in case of there being no distress found out of which such penalty can be levied, the convicting magistrate may commit the offender to the common jail of the city of Toronto, with or without hard labour, for any period not exceeding six calendar months, unless the said penalty and costs be sooner paid.’

Mr. Gervais, M.P., in his evidence, stated :—

‘The class of immigrants that Canada wants to be brought here are picked up by the proper officials of the Dominion government, by the proper agent of our government, and I do not recognize the right of any private individual to speak in the name of Canada to the foreign labourer, and induce them to come here. We have our proper officials, who will not deceive the foreign labourer, and consequently, I would say that these private enterprises bringing poor men to Canada should be checked. Special legislation should be incorporated defining those who shall have the right to represent Canada abroad, because the good name of Canada and the credit may be imperilled.’ Upon being asked the question, ‘Have you given this subject enough attention to state definitely what in your opinion such amendments to the law should be?’ He replied, ‘Well, yes, we should have some clauses inserted in our immigration laws, for example, empowering our quarantine officials to examine what is the standing of the immigrants coming into Canada, and before they have been brought to Canada, and rejecting those who are unfitted, and at the same time making it necessary for the speculators who have been deceiving these people to send them back.’

Count Mazza, in his evidence, was asked :—

‘Q. Then, it is your opinion that there should be some system to prevent the indiscriminate immigration?—A. I told you my idea is not to allow these private individuals to make a business of that, and to prohibit such action.’

SESSIONAL PAPER No. 36b.

I am of opinion that legislation in the line indicated by Mr. Gervais should be enacted.

Conclusion.

I am pleased to report that as a result of my inquiry I have received information from Mr. Cordasco that he has repaid the sum of \$2,017.25 of the moneys received by him from the Italian labourers, although in his letter to me of August 2, 1904, he states : ' This was the first year I instituted the system of registration, and I may add that it will be the last, as I intend to carry on my business without registering any men whatever.'

I have much pleasure in acknowledging the valuable services rendered during the inquiry by Mr. H. M. Mowat, K.C., counsel for the government, and of Mr. J. M. Viglino, Italian interpreter, and of Mr. R. Candori, the secretary of the Italian Immigration Aid Society.

I have the honour to be, sir,

Your obedient servant,

JNO. WINCHESTER,

Commissioner.

APPENDIX

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE

OPENING DAY'S PROCEEDINGS.

MONTREAL, July 21, 1904.

PRESENT :

His Honour JUDGE WINCHESTER, *Commissioner*.H. M. MOWAT, Esq., K.C., *Counsel for the Dominion Government*.JEROME INTERNOSCIA, *Counsel for the Italian Immigration Aid Society*.A. J. WALSH, *Counsel for Antonio Cordasco*.

The COMMISSIONER—Gentlemen, under this commission, issued to me on June 30, 1904, and signed by the Deputy Governor General, Mr. Justice Robert Sedgewick, I now open the investigation into the question of the immigration of Italian labourers to the city of Montreal.

The Commission is read by His Honour.

The COMMISSIONER.—This inquiry is now open, and I will proceed to examine witnesses.

Mr. MOWAT.—As in another branch of a matter referred to Your Honour, I appear for the government of Canada in this branch of inquiry. There are two other gentlemen here, Mr. Jerome Internoscia, on behalf of the Italian Immigration Aid Society, and Mr. A. J. Walsh, who is watching the case on behalf of Mr. Antonio Cordasco. As a matter of historical evidence, I proposed to call before Your Honour at first two gentlemen who would have shown the embarrassment caused to the municipal authorities here by the large number of Italians brought in during the month of April last, and also as to the distress created among them by the fact of their being penniless and in having work promised them. These two gentlemen are Mr. Laporte, Mayor of Montreal, and Mr. Honoré Gervais, M.P., but unfortunately both these gentlemen, through press of other most important business, are unable to attend for the moment, and with Your Honour's permission, I will ask to postpone calling them until Saturday next.

Mr. ALBERTO DINI, being sworn :

By Mr. Mowat :

Q. How long have you resided in Montreal ?—A. About 32 years.

Q. How long have you been conducting, among other things, an employment agency for labourers ?—A. I think, about ten years.

Q. I see in this copy of *La Patria Italiana* your advertisement. This is it ? (Hands paper.)—A. (Looking at paper.) Yes.

Q. You can tell me whether or not this would be a good translation into English of this: 'Great number of labourers required; work guaranteed at good wages. Apply to Dini's bank, 2026 St. Catherine's street, Montreal' ?—A. Yes. Well, look here, some employees from the paper came home one night and asked 'me.

Q. And you were also advertising the same thing in the papers in Italy ?—A. No, sir.

Q. There was another advertisement put in by you. This is the translation I have got; you can tell me whether it is right or not:—'For the coming spring.—Mr.

Dini announces that there will be a very large demand for perhaps 10,000 labourers for the coming spring. Italian workmen know that Mr. Dini is the representative of very many construction companies and also are aware of the proverbial integrity with which he has in the past proven, during the many years he has resided in Mont-real. Every one who wishes to be assured of work at good wages from the spring to the coming winter can go from the present time and be inscribed at the banking office of Mr. Dini, 2026 St. Catherine street?—A. What paper; I have put it in no paper. That is all I know.

Q. This is an advertisement in *La Patria Italiana*; that is your name?—A. I do not know who put it in.

Q. See there is a similar advertisement put in by Mr. Cordasco?—A. I cannot say; a man coming home, employed by *La Patria Italiana* say, you will see Cordasco wants about 10,000 men, and I told do what you like. I do not give number; the paper come out and I see the advertisement.

Q. It was not by your authorization, you did not authorize it?—A. No, sir. What papers say that?

Q. *La Patria Italiana*.—A. Same paper?

Q. Yes. What excuse had you, Mr. Dini, for giving an advertisement calling for 10,000 Italians?—A. I have not told to put in 10,000. I told you they will reply, to Cordasco's advertisement. I never told to put 10,000 or 5,000.

Q. What was Cordasco's advertisement?—A. I think about 10,000.

Q. I suppose you wanted to show you were not a lesser Italian agent?—A. I think they were on the same list.

Q. You did not want to admit that you were a less extensive agent than he was?—A. I do not understand.

Q. You were just as good an employment agent?—A. I think so; I think I am better.

Q. So far as numbers, you were not going to be behind?—A. No.

Q. But you had not any particular works for railway or construction companies in your mind?—A. No, sir.

Q. Are you also vice-consul?—A. No.

Q. Were you at one time vice-consul here?—A. No.

Q. You also keep a bank?—A. An employment bureau or steamship agency.

Q. How many Italians do you think you have succeeded in bringing here?—A. I did not bring any at all.

Q. In the last 10 years?—A. I do not bring them, they come themselves.

Q. Through your advertisements, your instrumentality, through your efforts, through your advertisements?—A. I never advertise at all.

Q. Mr. Cordasco says he brought in 12,000 in three years?—A. Cordasco? I do not know what he do. I have not bring men here at all.

Q. Had you agents in Europe?—A. No, sir.

Q. Are you sure of that?—A. I am sure.

Q. Did you not inquire in England or in Italy, had you any correspondents?—A. No, sir. I have no correspondents at all, by that line of American.

Q. Now, try and remember?—A. I am sure I tell the Italians some lots of time to be very like going west, probably will be here, and I have looked out for lots of men to come, but I think three or four years, in 1898, about 5,000 or 6,000 Italians come from Chiasso.

Q. Are you agent for any steamship companies in Italy?—A. Well, I got agency in New York for North German Lloyds, Hamburg-American, Anchor Line, and two Italian lines, one of them called *La Veloce* and two others.

Q. In Barcelona?—A. No.

Q. They call at ports in Italy?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. I want you to be sure about your answer. I do not want you to answer hastily to me. Are you an agent for emigration societies in the old country, such as the

SESSIONAL PAPER No. 36b.

Anonymous Emigration Society called 'La Svizzera,' with headquarters at Chiasso, Switzerland?—A. No, sir.

Q. What is this?—A. I tell you what this mean.

Q. Read and translate into English. (Hands him document.)—A. That is my name. On the one side is the following: 'Signor Albert Dini, ufficio di collocamento, N. 2026 St. Catharine Street, Montreal.' And on the other is: 'Sig. Alberto Dini, volgiate ben accogliere il porgitore del presente, raccomandandoui di valere allo stesso in quanto gli potesse occorrere. Ringraziandovi dell'appoggio che presterete al medesimo, con ogni stima ci rassegniamo. Società Anonima d'Emigrazione, "La Svizzera." Translation being as follows: 'Mr. Alberto Dini—Will you be good enough to receive the bearer of this and render him such assistance as you may be able to? Thanking you for any trouble you may take in the matter and with every mark of esteem.

'The Anonymous Emigration Society,
"LA SVIZZERA."

Q. That is given to persons?—A. Given to persons coming from Chiasso to Montreal.

Q. That is, they are recommended to you by the 'Società Anonima d'Emigrazione' at Chiasso?—A. Yes.

Q. What you told me a minute ago was hardly correct; you have given authority for these to be given to introduce men to you?—A. Well, sometimes in the late summer labour is very scarce, and they want to go around to Quebec. When the ship arriving in Quebec and get labourers and he write to me. He say I know you have a good name, and if I like I recommend to you.

Q. And that is what this card is for?—A. Yes.

Q. Have you communication with this Italian Immigration Aid Society?—A. I am vice-president.

Q. Has Count Mazza any connection with it?—A. Not as a member.

By the Commissioner:

Q. Where did this card come from?—A. From Chiasso.

Q. How did it get to Chiasso?—A. I do not know; probably the society gave to him.

Q. What society?—A. I never print it. I have no man there at all.

Q. You think they go to the expense of printing the cards just to please the men?—A. I cannot say.

Q. Did you not print this in Canada?—A. No.

Q. Did you not send this over to Chiasso?—A. No.

Q. Do you know any one in Chiasso?—A. Well, I see one man when I was in Italy last year. I say to one or two agents, if you send these men recommend to me. I can promise nothing if men come to Canada otherwise. I go and see that man you consult in Dolovico. I saw him and another in Chiasso.

Q. Was that Ludwig?—A. Yes.

Q. Is that a steamship agent there?—A. I was five months in Switzerland.

Q. What agreement did you enter into with Ludwig about bringing men over from Italy?—A. No agreement. I told him just a few words. He says: 'Dini you are here I am glad to meet you. I think you do the best you can for the men. I give them your address because the men complain when arrive in Montreal somebody else take them.' He says, he repeats, he complains, and that is reason why I will send to you because there is no complaint at all.

Q. How long ago was that?—A. In 1902.

Q. About eighteen months ago?—A. Yes; in April.

Q. How many men came across since this was reported to him?—A. I cannot say.

Q. Well, you have an idea?—A. I do not think there should be many coming to see me.

Q. But you can say about how many; were there two or three hundred?—A. I don't think more than two hundred.

Q. When do they come?—A. Generally come in spring and summer.

Q. How many this last spring?—A. This spring?

Q. Yes?—A. I cannot tell.

Q. Do you keep a record of all men coming?—A. No; men come and show me card; I say I will see if I can get work. I keep no record.

Q. How much did you pay for printing this card?—A. Never paid anything.

Q. Where was it printed?—A. I do not know.

Q. Did you not bring these cards over to Italy with you?—A. No, sir.

Q. Nor any card at a later date?—A. No, sir.

Q. Did you send them over?—A. No, sir.

Q. Then how many men came to you this spring from Chiasso?—A. I cannot tell exactly; probably 100, probably 200.

Q. Perhaps 200?—A. I do not think more.

Q. Have you the names of those who came to you?—A. No; I do not take the names at all.

Q. You do not take the names down at all?—A. No, sir.

Q. How many Italians were there in Montreal last May?—A. I cannot say.

Q. Well, you have a pretty good idea. I only want to know how many you suppose?—A. Arrived from Italy?

Q. I do not care from where?—A. Some say 5,000, some say 10,000. I do not know. I never counted. I do not think there were more than 6,000 or 7,000.

Q. They were all Italians; had no work?—A. No work.

Q. Were there many of them that had nothing to eat?—A. Well, I cannot say; they would be very few.

Q. How many?—A. I do not know.

Q. One thousand?—A. No, sir. I do not think over 100. I think everyone had money.

Q. You think all had?—A. Yes.

Q. How many were helped by the city authorities?—A. Well, I do not know.

Q. How many did you help?—A. None at all.

Q. You were getting work for them?—A. Yes.

Q. You never gave them a loaf of bread?—A. Sometimes I thought necessary to help, gave 25 cents.

Q. You have been keeping an employment bureau for the last ten years. Will you tell me exactly how that bureau is carried on; how do you conduct your business?—A. I have got an employment office, bank is name known to Italians, and supposing an immigrant he comes—

Q. Any conditions? What do the immigrants do?—A. Nothing; he come there and ask have any work.

Q. What do you do then?—A. I tell him yes if I have work. I try and send him, and if not he have to wait.

Q. How do you find out if there is any work?—A. I write to several, to contractors, to employers, to Grand Trunk if they want labourers, and if they want ship them.

Q. Have you any of these letters you wrote to the Grand Trunk?—A. Well, letter not here; I have one or two letters here.

Q. Let me see them; have you them?—A. I write my friends in department, and department has write to me.

Q. This is a letter from Mr. Stephens, Montreal. October 7, 1903, he writes to you:—

'DEAR SIR,—Your letter of 23rd instant to Mr. Hobson has been referred to me for a reply, and I have placed the same on file for reference when construction begins. At

SESSIONAL PAPER No. 36b.

present we are engaging nothing but engineers on location, and of course it is too early to consider the question of Italian labour for construction purposes.

‘Yours truly,

‘J. R. STEPHENS.’

Q. So you did not get an order?—A. Yes, sometimes I got a little order for 25 or 40.

Q. On last November you applied to be appointed labour agent for the Grand Trunk?—A. Yes.

Q. And Mr. Hays writes to Mr. Stephens that it is too early to employ an agent. This is dated November 5, 1903, that is with reference to the Grand Trunk Pacific. So nothing came out of that?—A. No.

Q. Do you represent any contractors?—A. No, I got friends like D. J. McDonald; he is a friend of mine.

Q. Let me understand how many contractors do you represent—A. I cannot say about all.

Q. How many?—A. 10 or 20. When the contractors want labour, they got my address, they write or telegraph to me if I have any Italians to send them.

Q. How many have you sent out this spring?—A. I think about 1,000.

Q. Where?—A. All over.

Q. Have you got a list of the numbers?—A. I don't got any list. I will make a list of the men I send out. I put all the names on it and give it to the foremen who go with the men.

Q. How much do you charge for getting employment?—A. \$1.

Q. Who pays the dollar?—A. The labourers.

Q. How much do you charge the foremen?—A. Nothing.

Q. Why, how is this they get better pay?—A. I think the foreman has lots of trouble to get men, to try to have men, I never charge a cent for the foremen.

Q. The only charge you make is \$1 for the labourers?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. How much do you charge the contractors?—A. Nothing.

Q. Nothing at all?—A. No, sir.

Q. Can you tell me how much you received this spring?—A. Well, I sent out 1,000, I make \$1,000.

Q. Up to the middle of July?—A. Before July.

Q. When did you start sending them out?—A. I think in May and June.

Q. And you have met other men from May to the present time?—A. Yes.

Q. How many others are there in Montreal engaged in this work of employing Italians?—A. I don't know, there are five or six.

Q. Will you give me the names?—A. One Italian.

Q. Give me Italians?—A. Cordasco.

Q. We all know Cordasco, anybody else?—A. Another Italian somewhere, but don't know his name.

Q. What about Monetta?—A. I think some foremen are engaging labourers besides bureau.

Q. Never mind the foremen, I want the bureaux?—A. I don't know name.

Q. You don't know the bureaux?—A. Well, one in St. James street, near St. Peter street. Another on McGill street.

Q. Do you know the names?—A. No, sir.

Q. You are the oldest one in the city?—A. No.

Q. You do not know the names of the owner?—A. I do not care about the English.

Q. I meant an Italian?—A. There is one opened this summer, I think Monetta.

Q. I mentioned his name, in Montreal?—A. Yes.

Q. Who is the man representing the Italian paper that came to you and asked you for an advertisement?—A. Di Rosa.

Q. Where does he live?—A. He left the paper, I don't know if he is in town.

4-5 EDWARD VII., A. 1905

Q. Is he the proprietor of the paper?—A. No, he is employed by the paper.

Q. Do you know where he lives?—A. No, sir.

Q. What large book did you produce to me the other day?—A. That is for addresses. You see when I send men out I give envelopes No. 8 and No. 7. No. 7 is addressed to my care, and if used by the person and letter come to me, and if coming to the country I will change the address and I will send it to the country.

Q. You have a printed envelope and then you have a smaller one?—A. Yes, No. 7 and No. 8.

Q. (Judge looks at envelope). This is No. 7 (hands to witness)?—A. Yes, sir, I give it to the labourer.

Q. You give it to the labourer?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. There is a blank space above here?—A. Yes, after letter come to my office I put place where he lives in the country and I mail it again.

Q. Where does this letter go, to Italy?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. In letter?—A. In letter written by immigrant to family and he encloses this.

Q. And family will write name above yours and send it out and you get it and forward to the address of the labourer?—A. When man goes to country, writes to me and give address. I put in book any change. He write, I change address.

Q. This is No. 8 envelope?—A. Yes.

Q. Do you give this to the labourers, too?—A. Yes.

Q. This large one they write to friends in Italy?—A. Friends and family.

Q. And enclose with their letter a No. 7 envelope?—A. Yes.

Q. Is that all you do for the labourers?—A. Yes.

Q. And you receive all their letters in your bureau?—A. Yes, and forward them if no call at all.

Q. If the labourer does not call you forward?—A. You see some are here in town, they come themselves to get letter and other ones gone, but will write to me and I will address the letter to place where labourer is.

Q. Do you give them any letter paper?—A. No.

Q. Any cards that you give them?—A. No, sir.

Q. Do you give them any small amounts?—A. No,

Q. How much do you charge these men for this work you do for their benefit?—A. Nothing.

Q. Nothing at all?—A. Nothing at all.

Q. The dollar covers that?—A. Yes.

Q. And do you say that you do not charge anything to each contractor or the person employing these men, or the company?—A. No, sir.

Q. How many Italians are there without work in Montreal to-day?—A. Well, I don't know there are many. I think, sir, there are very few.

Q. 500?—A. No, I cannot find even 100.

Q. All gone away?—A. All at work. I shipped 40 men last night, I have 40 to-night, I don't know whether I can get. I sent to Grand Trunk. Men leave the work here and men ask street car company \$1.25 or leave and go to country. I don't think there are 100 men without work in town.

Q. How many have you shipped out for the Grand Trunk this year?—A. About 200.

Q. How many for the Canadian Pacific Railway?—A. None I do not send for them, the Canadian Pacific Railway do not come to me at all.

Q. Have you ever sent out any for them?—A. I have sent about two or three years ago.

Q. That is the last you sent?—A. Yes.

Q. Did you charge the Canadian Pacific Railway for sending men out?—A. No, sir.

Q. Never?—A. Never a cent.

Q. Any charge to Grand Trunk for sending men out?—A. No, sir.

SESSIONAL PAPER No. 36b.

Q. The only charge, you state, is \$1 for the men and you find employment?—A. Yes and not pay, sometimes I cannot charge \$1. Late in summer when men are scarce I cannot charge a commission. I must send men for nothing.

Q. How many of that class have you sent out for nothing?—A. Well a good many.

Q. How many this year?—A. Well this year I do not think I sent many, lots of time it is easy to get Italians.

Q. Well it is hard work when you cannot get them?—A. Yes.

Q. Who pays you for that hard work?—A. I never get paid.

Q. For this hard work?—A. No, sir.

Q. This is rather peculiar when you work harder you get less pay?—A. If man is scarce have asked you must pay \$1.

Q. How many came this year, 10,000 or 12,000 in May, how many came from the United States?—A. Well, I don't know.

Q. About how many?—A. Very hard for me to give estimate, I don't have. From the old country there come, well, this spring not more than other years.

Q. You think not?—A. No.

Q. Where did the others come from?—A. From the States.

Q. Which was the greater, from the States or from the Old Country? Would there be more than one half from the States?—A. Well, I cannot say.

Q. Well, I know that you cannot give the exact number, but you are an intelligent man?—A. There are lots come from the States for one year off railways in States.

Q. Has work been stopped in the States?—A. They say so.

Q. That is what they say?—A. Yes.

Q. Not much work this spring?—A. No.

Q. What part of the States?—A. Down from New York and Boston.

Q. And other States?—A. Yes.

Q. Were there many of these men from the States who were in Canada before?—A. Every year they come from States and go back after work is done, and stay there during winter. I do not know. I think Canada is cold place.

Q. Is it colder than New York?—A. I think so. I think colder in Canada than in States.

Q. And that is one reason why they go back for the winter?—A. Yes.

Q. And come back in spring?—A. Sometimes come in spring. Come to Montreal I don't know.

Q. Have you any agent in the United States?—A. No, sir.

Q. Nor any agents in Italy or Switzerland?—A. No, sir.

Q. Not even Ludwig?—A. No, sir.

Q. He is your agent?—A. No, sir.

Q. How many men have you in your office to help you?—A. I have two clerks; two of my own sons.

Q. You do a larger bank business than most of them, do you?—A. Well,—

Q. Not a bank but a steamship business?—A. I get a good deal.

Q. How many prepaid passages did you sell since last December?—A. I think between 300 and 400.

Q. Who paid these passages?—A. Friends, cousins of the men come to me and ask what is the price of prepaid passage, and I tell the price of every company, and says I will get from Gennaro Veloce and other line.

Q. Any of your agents buy any?—A. No, sir.

Q. None of your agents buy any?—A. No, sir.

Q. Do any of the contractors or any of the railway companies buy any?—A. No, sir.

Q. You get paid your commission from the steamship companies?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Not from those who buy?—A. No, sir.

Q. Is this all you know about bringing in so many Italians this spring? Tell me all you know about cases?—A. Well, I do not know. Men come and want to bring family, wife and children; some send prepaid to friends and to cousins.

Q. That is prepaid passages, but—A. Yes.

Q. But why did so many come to Montreal last March, April and May?—A. I don't know.

Q. Can't you give me an idea?—A. I don't know.

Q. Were you surprised at so many?—A. Well I think, I tell the truth, I do not think more than in 1903.

Q. Not more than in previous years?—A. I don't think we have so very many, and work started late, and all the labourers be here in bunch in May. In year before I thing work started in March and April. The Canadian Pacific Railway took as many as 1,000.

Q. How many?—A. Over 1,000. I saw no Italians at that time. When I returned I saw no person here.

Q. No one here on May 1?—A. No.

Q. That was two years ago?—A. Yes.

Q. You think there were no more this spring than the spring of last year?—A. That is my opinion.

Q. And the reason why there were so many seen at one time was that they were all in a bunch, work was late, and the number of men sent out to work was not as large as usual?—A. Yes.

Q. There was a large number working last year?—A. Yes.

Q. The works were all over the country going on extensively?—A. It was very hard to get men.

Q. You don't think that the reason was that extra efforts were being made to get men?—A. I think that labourer write to friends and family in Italy the truth. As soon as I come here I get work at \$1.50 and \$1.75 per day.

Q. How much do they get in the Old Country?—A. I think 25 or 30 cents a day.

Q. Living cheaper there than here?—A. Yes.

Q. They would make more here than in Italy?—A. Yes.

Q. A great many come out because friends write work was plentiful and wages good?—A. Yes.

Q. What papers do you advertise in?—A. I do not advertise at all.

Q. You advertised in a paper?—A. For the bank, yes.

Q. Yes, and did you not advertise for labourers?—A. Yes.

Q. I am not speaking about the number, but you advertise the bank as a labour bureau?—A. Yes.

Q. You advertised in the *Corriere del Canada*?—I don't know, I got advertisement about two or three years ago.

Q. Did you advertise in any Italian paper?—A. No.

Q. New York paper?—A. Yes, I have a little advertisement in three or more newspapers.

Q. When did you drop this advertisement?—A. I think about two or three years ago.

Q. Nothing this year?—A. No.

Q. Or last fall?—A. No.

By Mr. Mowat.—The advertisement in this paper, April 28 of this year, in *La Patria Italiana*, it says about the large number of labourers that is wanted.

The COMMISSIONER.—To witness: Do you remember that advertisement?—A. In *La Patria*, I remember, yes.

By Mr. Mowat:

Q. These Italians came from Italy it seems, although they came from Quebec or Boston?—A. They came from New York, one line from Boston. Now from Quebec I do not know, because I have no prepaid.

SESSIONAL PAPER No. 36b.

Q. What is the proportion?—A. I think came very many from Boston and New York.

Q. From Boston or New York?—A. More in Boston than in New York.

Q. From company in Quebec?—A. Quebec.

By Mr. Internoscia:

Q. I wish to ask the witness as to his knowledge of the number of destitute Italians in Montreal. (To witness.) You have just stated that you were vice-president of the Italian Aid Society. Do you remember the meeting of May 2, you were present?—A. Yes.

Q. Do you remember at that time it was discussed by the board of management that we began by giving 30c. to destitute Italians to go and get meals, and later on the number was increasing so that we reduced it to 15c., and after that the number was so increased who were destitute that only a loaf of bread could be given. You were present when it was said that there were over 200 or 300 with nothing to eat?—A. I remember that, but in my opinion I tell if the labourers they have few dollars in pocket when we started to give bread to one to come before you gave proof have no money. You remember once you find four dollars and some cents in pocket and gave bread.

By the Commissioner:

Q. How many did you supply with food?—A. He says 500. If I remember well, report say 500, something like this, poor men who got bread.

By Mr. Internoscia:

Q. Another question. You did not suggest at the time any means of finding the exact number of destitute Italians. Were they too numerous to find out, was it possible to find out?—A. Certainly it is my opinion; I tell in the meeting to try and have clerk to see hire boss who say you must offer four or five dollars, and you will see if men have no money.

Q. Do you know, Mr. Dini, that this way of finding out was also tried, with the result that only five or six had money?—A. Yes.

By Mr. Walsh:

Q. Do you know that a great majority of these labourers would not accept positions out in the country, but were waiting?—A. I think this spring every labourer would take any work; not now but in the spring.

Q. As a matter of fact, did not these Italian labourers prefer long work?—A. They preferred C. P. R., to go west.

Q. Did I understand you rightly in answering Mr. Internoscia a few moments ago, did you mean to say that the Italians were not poor, but were simply making believe?—A. That is my opinion.

Q. Did you learn of certain facts connected with these men?—A. Certainly I remember I told about four weeks ago that I would give 500 bread. Men came to get bread, and one morning a man came to my office to get bread and his wife come back again. I said what is the matter, she said my husband he come here for bread, he tell me had \$2.65 and he was robbed, and I come to find. He had \$65 in money.

Q. Did you say that some of these people who went to get bread were not poor men?—A. Certainly. Many of them seemed to have money to spend in saloons.

By Mr. Internoscia:

Q. Out of the 500 how many had money? Can you prove how many?—A. I cannot prove, that is my opinion.

Mr. RODOLPHE CANDORI, being sworn.

By the Commissioner :

Q. What position do you occupy?—A. As agent or clerk in the Italian Immigration Aid Society.

Q. How long have you been in that society?—A. About one and one-half years, since December 15, 1902.

Q. What are the objects of that society?—A. The object of the society is to help, as far as possible, all the Italians who come here, to find work for them, to help them in getting their wages when there is any difficulty in getting them, and to advise them; to do everything possible to make easier for them their coming here. Of course, directors, incorporators, &c.—

Q. Have you any agents in Italy for sending out emigrants?—A. No, sir.

Q. No agents in Italy?—A. No, sir.

Q. No agents in the United States?—A. No, sir.

Q. Only an agency in Montreal?—A. Certainly.

Q. How is it supported?—A. Supported by annual subsidy from Italian government.

Q. Any subscriptions from friends of the society?—A. No, somebody gives some moneys, but very limited amount.

Q. No public subscription?—A. Being only in office last year, we spent all the money allowed for helping Italians, and had to address ourselves to public charity.

Q. Did you advertise for immigrants?—A. No.

Q. Do you issue bulletins?—A. Well, we issued some. They were distributed among the Italians here to let them know the aims of our society, and to let them know that there was a society here for their protection.

Q. Where distributed?—A. Here in Montreal, at my office.

Q. Not forwarded to Italy?—A. Yes, forwarded to the Foreign Office in Rome, the one at Palermo and the one in Venice.

Q. Were these quoted in any Italian papers?—A. I never heard anything.

Q. Or any parts of them?—A. I never saw any.

Q. Have you got a copy of the last two or three?—A. Yes; there have been only two.

Q. So you say that these bulletins are distributed in Montreal and sent to the offices you mention?—A. Yes.

Q. Who prepares the bulletins?—A. The first bulletin I fully prepared myself, and second one by myself partly and by Mr. Internoscia.

Q. Mr. Internoscia is solicitor of your society?—A. He is solicitor, and at the same time one of the shareholders.

Q. Is it a stock company?—A. Yes, it is composed of 25 shares of \$20 each, \$10 cash down and \$10 to be paid later.

Q. How much do you receive from the Italian government?—A. It has not been established yet, but we received for the first two years 5,000 francs, 5,000 francs for 1902-03 and 1903-04. So that this term will expire on June 30 of this year, and we expect to have 5,000 francs for the coming year. Besides that, as we wished to institute a fund for a house of refuge we sent to the Italian government and asked them for about \$2,000 for what we needed. These \$2,000 were sent to us, but when we started to take a house and to order the furniture, beds, &c., we had on our hands these destitute men.

Q. That was this year?—A. Yes. We had to buy instead the food of these people, and we spent more than one-half of the amount sent us for the house of refuge. We spent it for bread, and we do not know whether the Italian government will give us back the money we spent for bread.

Q. Never mind, you have done all for the best?—A. All right.

Q. What has been the amount of immigration during the last two or three years from Italy?—A. That is very hard to state.

SESSIONAL PAPER No. 36b.

Q. Are there no statistics?—A. The statistics from the Dominion government give it in part, but the information is difficult to obtain. If all immigrants would come from Italian ports or through navigation companies authorized by the Italian government it would be very easy to know that, as they are compelled to be *viséd* at the Italian ports, because no man can leave Italy who does not pass an examination so that he will not be rejected after arriving in America. Those men who have passed the prescribed age limit, or for any reason are afraid of being rejected in Italy, cross the frontier into Switzerland and go to Chiasso. But the Italian government kept its eyes open, and Ludwig, who is an agent for some of these doubtful immigration societies, was arrested in Italy for giving out notices contrary to our laws. I don't know exactly the time, but I think it was about six months ago, and he was fined 1,600 francs.

Q. For sending labouring men out?—A. Yes.

Q. How many men came in March, April and May, 1903?—A. In May very few. Work with the Grand Trunk Railway and Canadian Pacific Railway and other similar companies started very early last year. Although it was my first experience, I thought the work of the season very favourable. I remember that I saw in the middle of March last year lots who were going away.

Q. On work?—A. Yes, lots of them to the west.

Q. Although they came in they went out. How many came in?—A. Last year, altogether, the immigration has been 3,000, according to the statistics I have seen of the Dominion government.

Q. How many immigrants arrived in Montreal this year?—A. I think more than that. I think there have been passing through Montreal, coming partly from Canadian ports and partly from the American border, over 6,000.

Q. How many came to Montreal last May?—A. Not less than 4,000.

Q. Where did the larger number come from?—A. Well, I think that all these came from the north of Italy. We had a large immigration from the Venitian provinces this year, and this I think is due, partly to the advertisements that have been sent, because they are good men. They are picked men, and any railway company would be glad to have these men, because they are strong and even good looking.

Q. That is something new?—A. Yes.

Q. How many came from the States?—A. Lots, because since January those they call banks or labour agencies in Boston, Chicago and New York, were already asked to gather men to send to Canada for the opening of the season, so I think a very large number came from the States.

Q. Did more than one-half come from the States?—A. I don't think more than one-half.

Q. Did one-half?—A. Well, we have no count of these who may have come from the States to Montreal, but I think there were at least 4,000, at least 4,000, if not more.

Q. What was the condition of these men?—A. Well, the condition as it appeared to us was that at least one-quarter of them were destitute.

Q. Would that be about 1,000?—A. Perhaps, but I do not think it was that much.

Q. How many would you say?—A. From what I saw myself, it may have been 800.

Q. How many did the society you represent assist?—A. Since the month of January the increase was very small until the month of April, since the beginning of April the number increased enormously. Every day we had from 600 to 700 men or more applying for bread, but we did not give bread in this time, especially in May. When they came we distributed tickets with which to obtain bread.

Q. Who else assisted them besides your society?—A. I do not think anybody else assisted them.

Q. Did the city corporation assist them?—A. Not particularly, perhaps some private assistance.

Q. Did the city give any money towards their assistance?—A. Not for that purpose. We had from the city the sum of \$200, payable \$50 every three months.

4-5 EDWARD VII., A. 1905

Q. For the purpose of assisting?—A. For the purpose of assisting Italians who were needy.

Q. How many are there in Montreal to-day?—A. I do not think there are many.

Q. Are there any that require assistance?—A. They may be counted on the hand. There are several that are not young.

Q. I mean able to work?—A. Any able to work can get work.

Q. How many are there without work in Montreal?—A. I do not think practically there is anybody, but some come back from other works to the city and stay 10 days doing nothing and then find other work, and even those men who this spring had no work if you ask them to go to work now at \$1.25 or \$1.35, they will not accept, thinking that they will have a better chance at short notice.

Q. What is the Italian population in Montreal?—A. I do not think it may be said exactly, because in winter it will go as far as 10,000 when they return after working. In summer it may be a couple of thousand, that is children and wives, or labouring people and others that are settled.

Q. Are there many settled in Montreal?—A. I think nearly 2,000 with their families.

Q. Doing business?—A. Exactly.

Q. Then in addition to these, you think there were about 4,000 immigrants extra in May last?—A. Yes.

Q. And of these, 800 in needy circumstances and requiring assistance?—A. Yes.

Q. You think there is no one now?—A. Nobody now.

Q. Have you done anything to get men or immigrants to come to Canada?—A. Oh, no, we never did anything. We never wanted to state to the government how many immigrants there were here, because in the beginning they did not wait to work. We asked the head bosses approximately how many men they would require for the season so as to have a kind of control of this immigration and to state to the Italian government that such a company will be in need of so many men, and another company so many men. There would have been some control in our immigration, as in the event of the number of immigrants from Italy being larger than required the Italian government would have stopped it.

Q. What efforts did you make to ascertain the requirements of these companies?—A. Well, we applied to the management of these companies, but they declined.

Q. What companies?—A. The Canadian Pacific Railway, the Grand Trunk Railway, and others.

Q. Did you make any offers to the Canadian Pacific Railway?—A. We thought to supply all the men they might require for their works without any charge and explained to them what were the ends of our society, the beneficial character of the work.

Q. Did you state how many you could supply?—A. We stated we could supply any number.

Q. 10,000?—A. Oh, no. We never stated any number. This was not this year. Last year we stated only that we should have been called to supply these men to the company, asking how many they would require and we would have asked the Italian Government to send them over.

Q. Who is Mr. Marriotti?—A. Secretary-treasurer of the society.

Q. You remember his sending a letter to the General Manager of the Canadian Pacific Railway, in March, 1903?—A. Yes, we sent two, this might be one. (Looking at letter.) Yes, this is the one we sent.

Q. Have you got the second one?—A. Well, I may give you a copy.

Q. If you can find the copy, I would like it?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Is that the answer that was received. (Showing him answer)?—A. Yes, I remember this answer.

SESSIONAL PAPER No. 36b.

The COMMISSIONER reads:

MONTREAL, March 5, 1903.

'D. McNICOLL,

'General Manager,

'Canadian Pacific Ry. Co., City.

'DEAR SIR,—We noticed in yesterday's *Star* that your company and sub-agents fear not to be able to secure a sufficient number of labourers to carry on all the estimated work for the coming season.

'Two months ago we applied to your company, proposing to supply all the labourers you might need, and now we beg to apply to you personally stating again that:

'You can trust on us for any number of men you may require, even for thousands.

'We shall supply these men without any charge whatsoever for the company and shall act as interpreters and do all the work so as to prevent any kind of trouble or annoyance for the officers and employees of the company.

'Our society being under the control and subsidized by the Italian government, we may have good, sober and honest people coming to us through the Emigration Office in Rome, that would never allow criminals or sick men to come here.

'Later on, when the railway work will be over, we shall try to settle those men on land and make them good and industrious Canadian citizens.

'As our principal aim is to protect our countrymen against any kind of swindlers, of whom they have been victims until now, we try to secure the good-will and co-operation of all the companies that engage Italian labourers, the C. P. R. Co. first, as the most important of the Dominion, offering our services for the allotment of the men.

'Two months ago we sent to the C. P. R. Co. 50 copies of our by-laws, and as perhaps they did not reach you, we beg to send to you another one of them, from which you may see that our work is highly moral, and that it deserves to be taken into consideration.

'Please address yourself to our office, where you will find our agent always at your disposal for any information your company may require.

'Trusting to hear from you very soon, so as to put us in condition to be always ready to meet your requests.

'Yours truly,

'C. MARIOTTI, *Secretary-treasurer,*

'*The Immigration Aid Society No. 1'.*

—A. Exactly.

Q. You will perhaps let me have a copy of the first letter, and there is a reply from Mr. Geo. E. Burns, I presume, as I see that Mr. McNicoll has indorsed on his letter: 'Geo. E. Burns, Esq. For acknowledgments. D. McNicoll, 6-3-03.'

'MONTREAL, March 16, 1903.

'C. C. MARIOTTI, Esq.,

'Secy.-treas. Immigration Aid Society, No. 1,

'906 Lagauchetière Street, Montreal.

'DEAR SIR,—Referring to your letter of the 5th inst., directed to the second vice-president and general manager of the company, and also referring to the conversation with the delegation representing your society which took place in my office some days ago, I would state I have taken up the question of the employment of labour with the proper authorities, and have to advise you that it is not the intention of this company to change the arrangements for the employment of Italian labour which have been in vogue during the past few years; our present system has given entire satisfaction so far, and I therefore regret I shall be unable to place direct with your society any specific order for any number of men.

Yours truly,

'GEO. E. BURNS,

'*Special Agent.*'

4-5 EDWARD VII., A. 1905

Q. How many men have you assisted this year to get employment?—A. Over 600.

Q. Do you make any charge to any one?—A. Our by-laws give us the right to charge a small tax of 50 cents. This year I did not get a cent.

Q. Got nothing this year?—A. No, and last year we got only \$61 and spent \$400 to give them assistance.

By Mr. Mowat :

Q. Is that article 14 you are speaking of?—A. Exactly.

Mr. MOWAT (reading) :—‘Article 14. The fees of 50 cents each to be charged to every employed Italian labourer shall form a fund from which shall be taken the money for expenses in trying to employ other labourers who are not finally employed by the society within a week, and who would not be bound to pay such expenses; also to pay law costs in law suits that may be lost before the local courts, when brought to compel the fulfilment of contracts of employment, as above stated.’

Q. How many labour bureaus for Italian labour are there in Montreal?—A. Of labour bureaus kept by Italians there are practically only two, Cordasco and Dini. Then there is Monetta, who started this year, and also three or more foremen of these who can understand English. They go to these men and ask them to give them so much and they will find work for them; sometimes they do and sometimes they do not. Our office was formed for the purpose of preventing this kind of swindling of our men. They come here and do not know anything. They come here very anxious to get work, having just a little money that they borrow in Italy very often. After they have paid their passage and have been fifteen days or a month in making expenses they have not got very much and are very anxious to get work, and the last few dollars remaining go to pay this kind of tax to different people to get work. A man who is very anxious to work and does not know where to get it gives what they ask and he is not always well used

By Mr. Internoscia :

Q. Mr. Candori, you state we have no agents in Italy, but supposing we want 2,000 men to whom would we apply?—A. We address ourselves to the Royal Emigration Office in Rome.

Q. Then, did we ask any men of the Royal Emigration Office?—A. We never did.

Q. You say that No. 1 bulletin has been prepared by yourself?—A. Yes.

Q. No. 2 was prepared partly by myself and partly by you. What do you mean by prepared by myself? Was it an annual report?—A. Yes; the first annual report made by the president and secretary-treasurer of the society and translated into English by you.

Q. We have put into the report this paragraph:—

‘As this is the first year of the society, no one could expect it would do many great things, such as what concerns colonization and the opening of a house of refuge for Italian immigrants, things that we have already discussed but which we hope to put in execution during the year 1904.’

Later on I see:—

‘These hopes, together with that of being asked by railway companies to provide them with thousands of Italian labourers, form the project of what we intend to do during the year 1904.’

Q. When we speak here of Italian labourers, are these facts or mere hopes?—A. I think they were hopes.

Q. Did anybody in Italy take these hopes for facts?—A. I do not think so.

Q. They have read the facts as we have?—A. They were facts, and we have done our duty, as we have to report to the Italian government our view on the present condition of Italians. We stated what had happened last year, and we stated that was our opinion of what was going on for the next year, but if we were saying that the companies would require a large number of men we should have stated to the govern-

SESSIONAL PAPER No. 36b.

ment, to warrant the opinion, so many will be employed, and we should have stated send these.

Q. Answer my question. Now, have we forms of a contract of engagement in the office?—A. Yes, a kind of an agreement.

Q. Would we ask the Italian labourer to sign this contract?—A. No.

By the Commissioner:

Q. You might produce some of these forms?—A. Yes.

By Mr. Internoscia:

Q. We only send these forms to contractors and companies?—A. Yes, we send these forms to contractors or companies.

Q. These contracts are made between the society and contractors, and not between the society and the immigrant?—A. Yes.

Q. And in which I have been authorized to do by Chapter 66, Revised Statutes of Canada, 1886?—A. It is mentioned in the constitution.

Q. The other part of bulletin No. 2 that was prepared by yourself; there are some paragraphs on page 10 of the Italian and page 11 of the English versions. Now, will you read those, and give us your reasons for writing them?—A. (Reads):—

‘Some time ago our society applied to the Provincial government of Quebec to obtain some free land for colonization, and we were assured that our demand would be taken into consideration most favourably.

‘What we will want next is to secure good men who can help us in the realization of our best schemes, and they may be sure that the result will be quite a reward for their good-will and co-operation.’

‘Everybody knows that very important lines of railway will soon be built across Canada from ocean to ocean. Many thousand men will be employed, not only in the construction of the railroads, but also to open up civilization and progress the territories they will cross.

‘What a chance for the Italian labourers who will emigrate to Canada, will they be able to take the advantage of this opportunity?

‘We appeal to you, Italian labourers and agriculturists, for your own happiness, for your own credit and for the credit of our country. Come to us, help us in fulfilling our difficult task to guide and protect you. Why should you not be able to do what people of other nations did? Look at the splendid result that the Italian agriculturists have had in South America, and especially in Argentina? Why should you not have the same result in Canada?

‘Exercise your courage and energy and be ready to do something good on behalf of your families and yourselves. If you are afraid to start in a new calling you will remain a prey to swindlers and cheaters, you will be despised by others and humiliated before your own conscience.’

Q. Please explain in a few words why you wrote that?—A. That is according to my idea, when I wrote that it was that we really intended to change the character of the Italian immigration as much as possible. There are lots of people who come here who are no honour to the country they come from, nor to themselves. So that we want to have men come here who will settle here and take up land work and meet their situations and positions and so continue. This is what I intended in writing that. There is nothing positive in that, there is only information that large and important lines of railway are going to be built, facts that everybody not only in Canada but every where else know. We did not say to the men to come, but we say to those willing to come: you have a chance. This is what I said, I do not find anything to be ashamed of in that.

Q. How many men could you supply from Italy, good immigrants?—A. Any number.

Q. How many?—A. It depends.

4-5 EDWARD VII., A. 1905

Q. 10,000?—A. Well, I don't know of so many. I think 2,000 or 3,000 could be supplied in a certain time.

Q. What time?—A. A month or six weeks.

Q. You think you could supply contractors or railways with 2,000 in six weeks after application?—A. I will explain my application to the Royal Emigration for passports and for licenses to leave Italy, so that when the Royal Office will know that a number of Italians are required, they will publish the request any day there is a request for so many men at such a place. Of course the prefect and the mayors of different villages will be utilized, they will go into the districts where population is thickest, where emigration is most required.

Q. Would these make good settlers?—A. Some of them would have fair qualifications, because they would not like to stay. The character of the Italian is always to go back to his own country generally, but there are other places in which population is so thick the land is not to be had. So then in these places might be picked up lots of good agriculturists, good settlers. In Argentina we have 3,000,000 Italians, good men. In South America about 300,000, and I think in Argentina they have more Italians than Spanish.

Q. So you think you could supply Canada with the same class of men?—A. Yes.

Q. Let us determine the facts that we see here. You state, 'our society applied to the Provincial government of Quebec to obtain some free land for colonization.' Do you know that as a matter of fact?—A. Yes.

Q. Have you the letter here?—A. I will bring it.

Q. We see here that you ask them to help you in the realization of your best schemes. What are the best schemes?—A. Our best scheme is to change the character of immigration, to make our immigration more useful to Canada, and generally to the men as well.

Q. 'And they may be sure that the result will be a reward.' What is this result?—A. Because every man who comes here and settles on a farm did very well in Canada. I don't know why Italian farmers should not do as well.

Q. The result would be farming in Canada?—A. Yes, certainly.

Q. When you say we appeal to you for your own happiness, you ask them to come to you. Do you ask them to come from Italy to you, and why do you ask them to come to you?—A. To come to us when they are here, rather than to go to private agencies that make them pay money, people who are not reliable. We have no interest we have to fulfil a duty which has been imposed upon us by the government to protect our Italians and to advise them to come to us rather than elsewhere.

Q. 'Come to us, help us to fulfil our difficult task to guide and protect you?'—A. We can do nothing without co-operation in our efforts.

Q. And is it possible that our difficult task is to get men from Italy?—A. That is the very last thing we think of.

Q. The Italian government can improve immigration 50 per cent, what do you mean by difficult task?—A. Just to control immigration and to have moral strength to protect.

Q. 'Exercise your courage and energy and be ready to do something good on behalf of your families and yourself.' Do you mean that they should emigrate so as to go into agriculture?—A. It does not require great courage to emigrate, because they come very easily. It requires courage to change the kind of ways they have which I think are bad for something new and to change ways is not an easy thing and requires pluck.

By the Commissioner :

Q. What have these men been accustomed to do in the old country?—A. Farming.

Q. What are they good for when first hired?—A. When they arrive here at first they are fit for nothing else than pick and shovel. I have seen in the neighbourhood of Montreal about 100 farms composed of from 15 to 20 acres. These men come and

SESSIONAL PAPER No. 36b.

hire immigrants who do 75 per cent of the work of improving the little piece of land and after they get there they lease houses. Besides this they have to pay the passages, have to keep families there, small wages are no good for them.

Q. Were any of those who came this spring skilled labourers?—A. You mean, as mechanics?

Q. Yes.—A. We had a list of masons.

Q. How many?—A. About 100.

Q. Masons and stonecutters and good men, have they been employed as masons and stonecutters?—A. Very few, and for this reason. Many of these are men who have travelled about the world and been in Germany, France and elsewhere. When they come here they are asked to join unions as a means of protecting labour. They join the unions and when they do so they find very little work—one or two days per week. Canadian workmen do not like to be supplanted by foreigners, so many of these masons are compelled to work as labourers. I sent many down to Black Lake Mine, who are now there, say 250.

Q. Besides these 100 skilled all the others were unskilled labourers?—A. For the most part farmers.

Q. But only accustomed to pick and shovel?—A. Yes.

By Mr. Mowat :

Q. I see here in article 51 that Count Mazza, Consul General in Canada, is honorary president. Is this society carried on with his approval?—A. It is quite natural, as it is the Italian government that grants money to us, it is quite natural that the representative of the government will approve it.

Q. Is it so?—A. Yes.

Q. Does he take an active part?—A. The part he takes is controlling it.

Q. Do you let him know what are your proceedings?—A. Certainly, when any are taken.

By Mr. Internoscia :

Q. I see also an article in this constitution which says that provided skilled labour is required that you will furnish it?—A. We can get any kind of men. Our society is not only to bring out shovel and pick men, although it is more easy to have immigration of that kind of men to come than skilled labour; they find work everywhere, and they get better wages here than in Italy.

Q. We would not ask any of these people to come to Canada unless there was work for them?—A. No.

By Mr. Walsh :

Q. Where did you endeavour to place these men, particularly the men who were here so far, since you have been in existence?—A. We have done so.

Q. Where the big majority?—A. As labourers.

Q. You tried to place them with railway companies?—A. With railway companies and private companies.

Q. You did not succeed with railway companies?—A. I succeeded mostly with the Grand Trunk.

Q. How many did you place altogether?—A. Last year about 300, this year, I am under the impression—

Q. Had you, as a matter of fact, any experience in the kind of men required on the construction railways?—A. Certainly.

Q. What experience?—A. The judgment of every one.

Q. Practical experience?—A. Since I started this kind of business.

Q. How long have you been at this business?—A. One and one-half years.

Q. And you state you have placed men on railways, what experience had you?—

A. It is not very hard to understand what kind of men a railway company may need for ditching or shovelling.

Q. As a matter of fact, do you know that railway companies always employ the same men from year to year?—A. Yes, I had proof even last year.

Q. Don't you know that a great many of these men go back to the United States?—A. Part of them.

Q. Don't you know that most of the labour brought here from Italy is not used on railways?—A. It is quite the contrary.

Q. Brought directly from Italy?—A. The railway construction is made in Italy.

Q. And you brought out skilled labour to work on railways here?—A. No, because we have no control over immigration, otherwise we would; if you will look into the matter you will see that our main railways in Italy are even higher than anywhere else.

Q. You do not know, you are not an engineer?—A. I have some knowledge, and you know we have parts of railways that are worse than the Rocky Mountains, the line from Pisa to Genoa, for example.

Q. You issued a bulletin called No. 2. In that bulletin you speak greatly about agriculture and what you intend to do as regards settlement, did you ever apply to the Dominion as to placing of any of these people?—A. No, because it was not represented yet.

Q. But you were 1½ years at work in connection with your society, still you never thought fit to apply to the Dominion government?—A. Yes, we applied for lands in the province of Quebec.

Q. How many people did you settle?—A. It is a thing about which—

Q. How many people did you endeavour to settle?—A. It was impossible to settle people if we did not have the land, if we had the land we would find the people.

Q. You send the railway companies to place labourers for which you were to get 50 cents per man. You merely made application to the Provincial government for land, when did you do that?—A. About this time last year, July.

Q. Did you go to see the government?—A. No, we made a regular application.

Q. Did you get an answer?—A. Yes, our demand was taken into consideration.

Q. Did you ever take any further action?—A. No.

Q. So that you have followed up your plans concerning the immigration of settlers to this country by simply trying to find work with railways and contractors?—A. We could not do otherwise for the mere reason that everything has been contrary to us.

Q. And you attribute that to clear circumstances?—A. I attribute that to private interests.

Q. Well, you have certain interests in these people?—A. No, I do not mean as regards commission, from friendship, you know.

Q. You receive no commission?—A. No, it goes to our secretary-treasurer.

Q. Are you the agent for any Italian navigation company?—A. No. Three men came to see us on the 15th. We had a postcard from the Inspector of Immigration stating that they wanted to go to Italy, and I had bulletins of the sailings of the steamers, and I saw there was one next day from New York at 11 o'clock, and I informed them that if they started that night they might arrive in time on the following day.

Q. That is the only case?—A. Yes.

Q. Now, what about the changing of money to be sent to Italy?—A. Anybody coming to me inquiring for change of Italian money into Canadian, or Canadian money into Italian, I send to Mr. Dini. If I thought Mr. Dini would not give same change as another banker I would send the inquirer to the other.

Q. As regards the bulletins that were written, don't you know that the publication of these bulletins led to an attack in 'La Patria Italiana' and the 'Corriere del Canada'?—A. This was not an attack, only a discussion.

Q. It was no discussion, because nobody answered it?—A. They said lots of interesting things about several gentlemen, of me personally and of the society, but we never answered, because they did not deserve it.

SESSIONAL PAPER No. 36b.

Q. Well, the publication of these bulletins lead to a certain amount of publication going on in the Italian papers?—A. There was no discussion.

MR. INTERNOSCIA TO MR. WALSH.—Was it not for the bulletin itself and not the discussion, if we want to call it a discussion about the tone of the bulletin or matter?

MR. WALSH.—I want to say that this bulletin was re-copied in Italian papers and in other papers.

THE COMMISSIONER.—He says that. He says it did lead to something. He is ready to state that it did lead to something.

MR. MOWAT.—I do not understand the position my learned friend is taking here. I do not know why he is contradicting the society, why is this acting before going on with cross examination?

By the Commissioner:

To witness. Q. Let me ask you a question myself. Has the publication of this bulletin lead to certain publications concerning Italian immigration in the Italian papers of this city?—A. Yes.

Q. Has it lead to certain publications in the Italian papers in New York?—A. I do not know.

Q. Has it led to any publications in the Italian papers in New York?—A. I never read any.

Q. Have you read any other Italian papers?—A. I have not. Perhaps the idea of these gentlemen was that the bulletin was made to be published by these papers, because they only criticized the form of the bulletin, saying that there was nothing in what we were doing, but they never published much of the contents of the bulletin.

Q. As a matter of fact, did not these papers, that were referred to a moment ago, and which you admit have published certain information contained in the bulletin, did not these papers refer to the great prospects, taking the cue from these?—A. Not at all, because there was not one of these articles that we did not take great care to tell the Italians that we made these statements just from what we knew.

Q. Did they not take up your thought that they were going to have a great year and that the prospects were magnificent?—A. Oh, no.

Q. You swear that the Italian papers did not?—A. I never read them.

By Mr. Internoscia:

Q. Was our annual report copied in all of the papers?—A. Yes.

By the Commissioner:

Q. Have you got it there?—A. Yes.

MR. JOHN S. SKINNER being sworn:

By the Commissioner:

Q. What is your name in full?—A. John S. Skinner.

Q. What position do you occupy?—A. I am labour agent for the Canadian Pacific Railway.

Q. How long have you been labour agent?—A. Well, since the beginning of this year. Previously I have had the supervision of all the labourers employed by the Canadian Pacific Railway and to a large extent the employment of mechanics for the shops, but last year I had nothing whatever to do with the employment of Italians.

Q. That was first added to your duties this year?—A. This year.

Q. Now you say you have the supervision of the employment of all Italians employed?—A. I have the supervision of all.

Q. What do you mean by supervisoin?—A. It is my duty to receive orders for these men as they come in from the superintendent at different parts of the line and interview Cordasco, who is given the supplying of Italian labour, and in giving Cordasco orders it is my duty to see that the contracts are properly made and filled out by the men.

Q. You are an Ontario solicitor, Mr. Skinner?—A. I am.

Q. What contracts do you refer to?—A. Well, every labourer employed by the Canadian Pacific Railway signs a contract in duplicate. He receives one copy and the other copy is kept by the company.

Q. Is that in English?—A. In English for English-speaking labourers, in Italian for Italians and in French for French labour.

Q. That is in three languages?—A. Yes.

Q. Do you understand the three?—A. My knowledge of Italian is very limited.

Q. What other duties besides supervising these contracts and employment of these men?—A. Well, I have the supervision of the shipment of these labourers by train, and in the case of correspondence with the superintendents to see what divisions these men are sent to, and I also have charge of correspondence regarding claims, if any, are made by these men after returning from work.

Q. Have you charge of everything in connection with the employment and payment of labourers?—A. I have not direct charge of that. I have charge under the superintendence of Mr. Burns.

Q. Mr. Burns is your chief, and under his direction you take charge of that department of his work?—A. I do.

Q. Where is your office?—A. My office is on St. James street, No. 371.

Q. Now, who is your employment agent, who employs Italians for you?—A. Antonio Cordasco.

Q. How long has he been in that position?—A. Since before I was an employee of the company.

Q. His office is?—A. 375 St. James street.

Q. Adjoining yours?—A. Yes.

Q. And has been before your time?—A. Yes.

Q. Any agent besides Cordasco for that work?—A. For Italians, no.

Q. What part of the work do you supervise?—A. I supervise, first of all, the contracts and his accounts against the company. I check each month and make some notes or corrections or deductions, and after doing that, I pass them on to Mr. Burns.

Q. You certify the account to Mr. Burns?—A. I certify to Mr. Burns.

Q. Do you go into the account to see if Mr. Cordasco's charges are right?—A. Yes. Very much so.

Q. What remuneration does he get from the Canadian Pacific Railway for the employment of Italians?—A. There was an arrangement made this year, in April, between Mr. Burns and Mr. Cordasco.

Q. Were you present?—A. I was going to explain that I was not present when it was made, but Mr. Burns told me about it immediately.

Q. Did Mr. Cordasco tell you?—A. Mr. Burns told me in his presence.

Q. What was that agreement?—A. The Canadian Pacific Railway, from that date, would pay at the rate of \$1 for each man, and in consideration of that, Cordasco was not to make any other charge against the men.

Q. Against the men for employment in connection with Canadian Pacific Railway works?—A. Exactly.

Q. Do you remember that date?—A. I believe it was the last week in April.

Q. What was the previous arrangement?—A. The previous arrangement—I was not in charge of the Italian affairs.

Q. What was the previous charge made by Mr. Cardasco, as appearing in his

SESSIONAL PAPER No. 36b.

accounts against the Canadian Pacific Railway?—A. Before April; before that time Cordasco—

Q. Have you an account so that we may look it over?—A. I have not—I am quite well aware—I have no account. I have just the particular letters you required.

Q. Probably Mr. Burns may show you one of the accounts?—A. I am quite well aware that up to that time Cordasco was paid a fee from the company for his services, and it was understood that he was allowed to collect a fee also from each labourer.

Q. With whom was that agreement?—A. I cannot give you any information prior to that, before my supervision of this work.

Q. All you saw was his fee charged for attending to that work?—A. Yes.

Q. What was that fee?—A. Cordasco was allowed a fee of five dollars a day for a proper day's work.

Q. What would you call a proper day's work?—A. If it took several hours to do he charged for it *pro rata*, or something of that sort.

Q. Did you mention it by hours?—A. By hours and importance of work.

Q. So that if he went out to hire men and took two days to hire them, he was paid at the rate of five dollars per day?—A. Of course, it was a matter of judgment if he had; well, if he had used his best endeavours.

Q. I suppose you corrected any errors in the way of overcharges in his account?—A. Yes.

Q. That continued up to about the end of April?—A. Up to the end of April.

Q. Another agreement was made at that time. Why was another agreement entered into?—A. Just a matter of opinion on my part.

Q. Well, I wish to ask you as to your opinion, you do not know why that was made?—A. I can say that it was on account of complaints from Italians as to their being charged, I understand. It was simply an opinion.

Q. Was it spoken over between Mr. Cordasco, Mr. Burns and yourself?—A. At the time Mr. Burns told me of the new arrangement. He practically told me that it was because there had been complaints about Cordasco charging the men.

Q. And you wanted to stop these complaints?—A. Something of that sort.

Q. On behalf of the C.P.R.?—A. Something of that sort.

Q. So the C.P.R. was aware of the character of these charges. What charges were made against the C.P.R.?—A. I did not stop any charge.

Q. Why did the C.P.R. interfere?—A. Because these men were being employed by the C.P.R., and the C.P.R. thought it well to take care of them as much as possible.

Q. Do you think it was in consequence of the Immigration Aid Society who offered to supply men without charge?—A. I have no reason to believe that.

Q. No?—A. Because it never occurred to me.

Q. Do you know how many you asked Mr. Cordasco to supply?—A. Mr. Cordasco supplied 711 to the C.P.R. this spring.

Q. You requested him to supply, or to be able to supply any great number?—A. No, we did not tell him what number.

Q. Did you suggest to him the number likely to be employed during the season?—A. No, except in the most indefinite—

Q. I mean that—A. I do not think he was told in the early spring we would require many.

Q. How many?—A. I do not think I said anything to him in any way. Of course he had the experience of former years, and this year would be about the same.

Q. What was last year's employment?—A. 3,144.

Q. On the C.P.R.?—A. Last year, Italians.

Q. How many labourers had you altogether on your list last year?—A. Well, the total number of unskilled labourers was something in the neighbourhood of 6,000. I have not got my statement here. You only asked me to bring you the list of people employed this year. I can easily get the exact figures.

Q. Kindly do so this afternoon?—A. Well, it was something over 6,000.

Q. What is your information as to the remaining at work of these unskilled labourers. Did they remain there the whole season, or did they jump their contracts?—A. As far as the Italians are concerned, they stuck to their contracts quite well. But so far as the other men sent to the North-west where harvesting is going on, they sometimes jumped their contracts.

Q. In order to supply their places what do you do?—A. We have to send out more men from Montreal.

Q. Have you received any applications yourself for employment?—A. I received some this year. These applications from labourers go some to the president, some to the general manager. I have a list of those who applied, one list for this year, and there were three or four applications at the end of last year.

Q. How many are there?—A. Altogether 38.

Q. Personal applications?—A. Personal applications.

Q. Where from?—A. People who applied in the autumn, Portland, U.S., and Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan and Detroit. Then the year beginning in January to July 31, including people from Chicago, Brooklyn, Moose Jaw, Sault Ste. Marie, Roxbury, Berlin, North Bay, Seattle, New Orleans, Buffalo, Spokane, Hamilton and some other places.

Q. Are these individual applications, or made for parties?—A. These are all from persons who say they could supply a number of men, some 50, some 10,000.

Q. Well, 10,000, where did that one live?—A. Somewhere in the United States, I have the letters here.

Q. What dates do these cover?—A. October 22 last year up to July 7.

Q. What answer did you give to these applications?—A. Well, in some cases I stated we did not want these men at the present time, and others I did not answer at all.

Q. Why?—A. They came in too rapidly at times and there was no opportunity to answer them.

Q. Was it not because you wished to employ these Italian labourers here?—A. I suppose that was part of the reason.

Q. You employed them all through Cordasco?—A. Yes.

Q. Have you employed any at all outside of Cordasco?—A. No Italians.

Q. Is that your agreement with him?—A. I do not know of that agreement.

Q. What is the arrangement with Cordasco with reference to his office rent?—A. He finds his own office rent.

Q. He pays his own office rent, nothing further; who is his lessor?—A. His lessor is Mr. William Walker.

Q. The rent for the whole office is paid by the Canadian Pacific Railway, and Cordasco pays the Canadian Pacific Railway exactly one half?—A. He pays for his own office.

Q. To whom does he make payment?—A. I do not know exactly to whom he makes payment.

Q. I thought you had charge of that department?—A. I have not charge as far as the collection of rent from Cordasco is concerned.

Q. Does he not charge you for work in connection with the cleaning out of the office, and water rates, &c., and all that, who pays for that?—A. As far as cleaning of the labour office is concerned, that is a matter that I have attended to; at different times I have employed people myself, but at the present time and for some months past I have asked Cordasco to have it done by one of his men, who is generally lounging about his office. There is a woman who scrubs the office, it is the same person who scrubs his office out, I don't know her name. I do not pay her direct, I pay her through Cordasco.

Q. So that he and you and the railway looked after offices generally?—A. No, Cordasco has nothing to do with my office in the world.

Q. I thought you stated that he looked after your office cleaning, water rates, and charged you with them and you paid?—A. It is only a domestic matter the cleaning

SESSIONAL PAPER No. 36b.

of the office. I asked Cordasco to get the woman who scrubs his office to scrub mine when she finishes scrubbing his and she is paid by Mr. Cordasco, that is all.

Q. Well then, look at that account, how is that, is that for your office?—A. No, it is for a yard there is behind the office, and I remember it got full of ice and snow last year and it became very difficult on account of that ice to get it cleaned out, so Cordasco was told to get it cleaned out. It was just a matter of convenience. He has a lot of men loafing around, and he put in an account for it.

Q. I suppose the March account would show how much he charged your company, that is certified by you, for the work in connection with the Italians. Have you got that account?—A. I have in hand all the expense accounts.

Q. We will look at that after adjournment.

The Commission adjourned until 2 p.m.

THE COURT HOUSE, MONTREAL, July 21, 1904.

2 P.M.

The Commission resumes.

Mr. SKINNER recalled.

By the Commissioner :

Q. Have you a statement of the men who have been employed this year?—A. Employed this year ? I gave you a statement of last year yesterday afternoon.

Q. Don't you know how many there were?—A. Unskilled labour, about 6,000.

Q. And how many this year?—A. This year to the present, I have not got a statement to date. The unskilled labour altogether this year, including a lot of Norwegians employed in Winnipeg, numbered about 2,000. The number of Italians this year is 711 from Montreal.

Q. From Montreal?—A. And from Winnipeg about 204.

Q. Have you a copy of the contract under which they were engaged?—A. You have Mr. Candori, I have not a copy of it.

Q. I think you were asked about individual contracts?—A. Yes.

Q. (Showing contract). This is the form which you have adopted?—A. Yes.

Q. By the C.P.R., with all the Italian labourers?—A. Yes.

Q. Have you got it in English?—A. I have not got a copy here.

Q. Mr. Burns signs all of them?—A. I sign them for Mr. Burns.

Q. Have you been authorized by him?—A. Yes.

Q. Mr. Cordasco signs them as well?—A. He signs as witness.

Q. In every case?—A. He is supposed to sign in every case.

Q. He or his clerk?—A. He does it himself really.

Q. It is similar to the one in English and French?—A. Yes, I will get you a copy.

Q. What other work does Mr. Cordasco do for the C.P.R. in addition to employing Italian labour?—A. Sometimes there are claims against the company.

Q. You employ him for the purpose of looking into the claims?—A. Yes, looking after them and making translations of letters.

Q. He charges specially for these items, does he?—A. He is specially paid for them.

Q. You think under the five dollar a day item?—A. Yes.

Q. That is previous to the latter end of April?—A. Still.

Q. Still paid at that rate?—A. Still paid at that rate.

4-5 EDWARD VII., A. 1905

Q. In addition to that I see he supplies Italians who go a distance with provisions?
—A. He does.

Q. These provisions are charged against their wages?—A. Yes.

Q. Who checks the accounts for such supplies?—A. I check them.

Q. How do you check them, what means do you take to see that they are correct?
—A. Well, the first thing I do is to see whether I think he has supplied enough or too much stuff for the parties leaving, and then I look over the prices charged for each item.

Q. You look over the prices charged for each item and ascertain that they are correct, by what means?—A. The only way to ascertain, I judge.

Q. How do you judge?—A. All the articles he supplies are every day matters.

Q. Did you ever test the prices?—A. I bought a few duplicates of articles in my list.

Q. Just to test the price?—A. To try them.

Q. His profit is added to the original item and charged against the Italians' wages?—A. I do not understand.

Q. You understand he just charges the amounts he pays for these articles?—A. I understand that the articles are bought from him. He adds an amount for what he thinks a fair price.

Q. Are the articles bought from him?—A. The articles are bought from him.

Q. By whom?—A. By the C.P.R.

Q. On your order?—A. On Mr. Burns' order.

Q. You give him the orders in writing?—A. The orders are verbal.

Q. In all cases?—A. Yes, when I am away.

Q. Cordasco gets them?—A. As far as supplying provisions on the road.

Q. Does he supply provisions, is he at present?—A. I do not know that he is.

Q. No, he is not. He gets these articles from others?—A. I believe so.

Q. You pay him for getting these things?—A. Oh, no, he is not paid for getting them.

Q. He is paid for his day's work?—A. The arrangement now is that he gets \$1 per man.

Q. Never mind now, I mean last year?—A. I do not know whether he got paid before that.

Q. Get me one of the accounts of last year?—A. I do not remember it, I had nothing to do with it.

Q. Well, we will take March 15, 1904—you had to do with that?—A. Yes, March, 1904.

Q. Will you look at the items of March 15? (Hands him account.)—A. March 15; yes, I see.

Q. 'Services rendered by sending provisions to westward train'; it is O.K'd. That is a \$5 item?—A. That is not for Italian labour.

Q. It is simply for Chinese labour. It is a charge against you; the only difference was that you did not get it back from the Chinese, but you did from the Italians. He charged \$5 for that day. \$54.05 for these provisions; look at the account?—A. Yes, \$54.05.

Q. He bought them for \$37.95 the same day?—A. I am not aware.

Q. There is the account produced by Mr. Cordasco; \$16.10 made on that little item of \$37.95. What means have you taken to find out what were the prices of the articles supplied to the Italians and Chinese?—A. I have taken no means. I have looked at Cordasco's accounts.

Q. And just estimated it was correct?—A. I looked at each item.

Q. Without knowing whether they were reasonable or not?—A. I just went on my own judgment.

Q. Look at the April account you passed, too?—A. The April account?

Q. What is the charge he makes there for shipping men?—A. Charges \$5.

SESSIONAL PAPER No. 36b.

Q. For that he gives provisions on that date?—A. What date are you looking at.

Q. April 14.—A. He only gets \$5 for shipping and loading provisions.

Q. That is all he is entitled to, that is bread for your men. Now, what is the account for provisions?—A. \$152.

Q. Do you know how this is made up?—A. It is made up of loaves of bread. Three hundred loaves of bread; I think, he charges 18c. for each loaf.

Q. How many sardines?—A. Four hundred.

Q. How many men?—A. One hundred and eight.

Q. As you see (showing account) the original cost of these various items was \$94.72?—A. I never saw that before.

Q. But could you not have found out from any person doing business in Montreal? These Italians had to pay \$152 for what was purchased for \$94.72?—A. At the same time, I gather from this statement that they were not paying any more than they would be obliged to pay for themselves.

Q. The Canadian Pacific Railway were paying Mr. Cordasco for acting in the interest of these Italians. They were your employees. Now, what means did you take, as a servant of the Canadian Pacific Railway, to find out that you were getting articles at the lowest price for these men?—A. In reply, I can only say I scanned Cordasco's accounts item by item, and if the items were reasonable I passed them.

Q. Without knowing what they could be bought elsewhere for?—A. Yes.

Q. In every month there is a large item for supplies of this kind?—A. Some months there is only a small item.

Q. Some months larger than \$152?—A. I do not know.

Q. Last year some months were considerably higher?—A. I do not know about last year.

Q. And in the present year sardines that cost 4c. a box were charged 12c.?—A. They are down here at 10c.

Q. That is only 150 per cent profit. Where does all the profit go; does Mr. Cordasco alone get all the profit?—A. I do not know any one having an interest in it except Cordasco. I must confess that I was not aware that he bought the things as ordered.

Q. With every account that Cordasco produced he should have given you the bill in detail from the party he got the goods from for every day he charged you for supplies. He gets these articles from Mr. Spenard. I suppose, Mr. Spenard just drives them to the Windsor station, is that all?—A. They are looked after there by Cordasco.

Q. And he gets \$5 for doing that?—A. He does not now.

Q. He did last year?—A. Of last year I cannot speak.

Q. But up to April in the March and April accounts he has charged them. So you see he gets \$5 a day and how much from the unfortunate people who have to pay for these supplies going out west. \$152 less \$94.72, or \$57.28, that he gets out of that. I would suggest in future that you look into these accounts. Do you not think that is a little more than fair. He is your servant, he has to supply these articles, has he not?—A. I quite see the point.

Q. Why should you allow him to make money out of these men?—A. It is not a great hardship the cost to the men.

Q. I do not think it is excusable at all, Mr. Skinner. I think the men pay a great deal more than they ought to pay and more than the Canadian Pacific Railway directors wish them to pay. I feel certain of that, and it is inexcusable that such charges should be made against men; of course it would be very important to have 10,000 for employment by the Canadian Pacific Railway, if such profits can be made. Adjoining your office is Mr. Cordasco's; you see men going in there for the purpose of obtaining employment?—A. I cannot see into the office.

Q. You can know and hear?—A. Only a few.

Q. Have you seen them at all?—A. I have heard him charge \$1 for registration.

Q. How much does he charge for foremen. I think Cordasco charges something like \$10 for foremen?—A. Not that I know of.

4-5 EDWARD VII., A. 1905

Q. You never heard that Cordasco charged more than \$10, \$1 from the labourers and \$10 from the foremen for obtaining employment for them?—A. As far as the men were concerned, I was thinking of the whole thing, including registration and getting work.

Q. What about new labour?—A. I understood he charged \$1 for registration and a couple for starting them to work.

Q. Only that two dollars?—A. Yes.

Q. That is \$3 for getting employment?—A. Certainly.

Q. He really makes \$4 on these men and \$1 from the Canadian Pacific Railway, which makes \$5?—A. No.

Q. You told me that the Canadian Pacific Railway agreed to give him \$1?—A. The Canadian Pacific Railway agreed that he get nothing.

Q. Do you know that he gets nothing?—A. I do not know.

Q. Well, you say that he gets nothing from you?—A. I do not know that he will be paid anything by the Canadian Pacific Railway.

Q. If it is not known what he gets?—A. My reason for saying that is that he was given \$1 in consideration of his getting nothing from the men. I agree with Your Honour that he should not be paid double for the service.

Q. Can you tell me how much Mr. Cordasco has made out of these 700 odd men he has sent you?—A. I certainly cannot.

Q. Have you any idea?—A. Well, I know he has been paid nothing by the Canadian Pacific Railway.

Q. How many foremen have gone?—A. I should say about six.

Q. Only six foremen for 700 men?—A. In some instances it was asked that foremen should not be sent.

Q. Only six foremen for 700 men?—A. I think only six foremen.

Q. You have a list of the men who have gone out?—A. I have got it here.

Q. Kindly look up the number who have gone out this spring, every party has a foreman?—A. (Looks at list.) There are 11 foremen.

Q. 11 foremen and how many men?—A. 711.

Q. Eleven foremen at \$10 equals \$110. How much for each man and how much for getting employment, \$3?—A. I do not know, Your Honour.

Q. We will take \$1 for registering, this you do know, that is \$700?—A. Yes.

Q. Now, adding this \$700 to the \$110 received for the foremen, that would make \$810 since—when was the agreement established?—A. On April 14.

Q. Well that would be \$810 from April 14 up to July 16 inclusive, and if he has charged \$3 for each, that is \$2,100, and with the \$810, that would amount to \$2,910 from April 14 to July 16?—A. On what basis?

Q. If he charges you besides \$1 for these 711 men, that would bring the amount to \$3,620?—A. There was a gang yesterday.

Q. How many?—A. 15 men.

Q. We are only going to July 16. That is really all that is black and white.

Q. \$3,621 from April 14 to July 16. Do you know what efforts he puts forth in order to engage these men?—A. He has lots of trouble. He keeps an office with a waiting room, they are resorts where these people spend all winter. They come down to smoke, he keeps all sorts of conveniences for them.

Q. But I mean as to employment, I mean efforts contingent to getting these men hired?—A. I do not know anything about that. Of course, a great many come down from work in the autumn, some remain there and some go to Boston and New York.

Q. Some of those who have registered one year have to pay over again?—A. I think they want to do it. They come down and consider Cordasco their friend.

Q. I suppose he is their friend to the extent of getting what amount of money he can out of them?—A. They seem to like it.

Q. They are a peculiar people, you and I would not like that Mr. Skinner.

Q. You cannot tell me what agencies he has in the States, or in Italy, for the purpose of getting these men out?—A. I have not heard of any in Italy, and I do not know

SESSIONAL PAPER No. 36b.

of any in the States. I simply know that at the end of the last year, after all the men had been sent and more were required, I understood he got some Italians living in Boston and New York sent up. I do not know though from whom he got them.

The COMMISSIONER.—That is all I wish to ask.

Mr. RICHARD H. LANE, being sworn.

By Mr. Mowat :

Q. I am told that you are a university graduate, and that for some years you have dedicated your life to the study of social and economical questions in connection with organized charity?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. What is your present position?—A. Secretary of the Charity Organization Society of Montreal.

Q. Is that the society which combines the efforts of a number of other societies?—A. It is a clearing house for the other societies.

Q. In connection with charity and other philanthropic subjects?—A. Yes.

Q. You remember the influx of Italian labourers in April and May last?—A. I do so.

Q. Is it part of your duty to look after and dispense help to destitute persons who come to Montreal?—A. All social problems belonging to Montreal.

Q. Did it come under your notice that there was anything extraordinary in this great influx?—A. I first noticed along in April that there were a large number of unemployed Italians in all our parks who did not leave the city as they did heretofore in the two years I had been there.

Q. Were they sitting in the parks only a few moments?—A. Well, they were spending the whole day in the parks, and my attention was called by a good many members of our society, and I think we spoke of it and thought it wiser to wait until things came to a crisis before doing anything.

Q. Did you inquire where these Italians came from?—A. Not at that time, we had a little meeting. I am told it was about May 30 in the mayor's office. I speak and submit to him or he to me frequently questions regarding dependant immigrants from the city council which are referred to the bureau of the mayor. I think he informed me that the president of the Italian Immigration Society had been to him that morning and stated that they had spent a large amount for the relief of the homeless from the house on Windsor street, and he asked my judgment and I told him that before doing anything I thought it would be wiser to call in the president.

Q. That is Mr. Catelli?—A. Yes, Mr. Catelli. We met at another room that day Mr. St. Denis, chairman of the Police Committee, who was interested in the affair.

Q. Alderman?—A. Alderman. The president of the Italian Society. He stated that they had spent over \$1,000 of the \$2,000 voted by the Italian government for a house of refuge, on bread for these Italian immigrants, and that there were probably 500 of them who had no means.

Q. Completely destitute?—A. Completely destitute.

Q. Eating bread and drinking water and nothing else?—A. Yes. The president of the society asked me if the charitable societies would make a public appeal. I did not feel justified in doing this, for it is absolutely impossible in feeding a large number of foreigners to have proper control as to how much they really need.

Q. You mean that there may be destitution practised?—A. Yes. The president of the Italian Society here is well respected, and the mayor told me that he had perfect confidence in what he stated that before I acted as treasurer of this fund I thought it was wiser to take the judgment of two men friends, members of the society.

Q. Were they called in?—A. I went to both of their houses before I would act as treasurer of this fund. Both of these men stated that there were Italians who were

asking for food, and acting upon their judgment I went back and told the mayor that I would be willing to act as treasurer for the fund, and the appeal was published in the papers and we received about \$185 from the public for the bread fund.

Q. Where was the bread distributed?—A. From the Windsor street house. I told the president of the Immigration Society and other gentleman that I felt it would be wiser to cut down the bread limit every day, and we did until in about four weeks they were practically giving away no bread.

Q. Then the trouble was acute for about three or four weeks?—A. Yes, I made an investigation for my own sake and the sake of the mayor, as to the Italians who had no bread and we came to the conclusion that there were possibly at that time between 200 and 300 in Montreal.

Q. You mean Italians?—A. Between 200 and 300 who were dependent for their support either on the Italian Immigration Society or on their friends, of course I know the Italian Society stated there were more, but that was due to many who without reason stated that they were in need, but from my own judgment there were 200 or 300 without means to buy bread.

Q. Did you hear Mr. Dini this morning give evidence on this subject?—A. I did.

Q. Did you hear him say that the bulk of the immigrants were from the States?—A. And I think that is right. That is one of the greatest difficulties we have, we can get any amount of people to come to this country from Boston and New York, but we have no means of returning them to these places.

Q. You mean that there is a prohibition against our sending foreigners across the line?—A. Yes, less than six months ago I had a case of an Italian who had consumption and could not live more than two months, and we wished to send him to Italy by the boats that sail from New York, but we could not do so as the United States government will not allow us to send an Italian home by way of New York, even if we give our personal word that he has paid his fare.

Q. How is it about foreigners coming into this country from the States?—A. Well, we do not keep a record of them. It is an open secret that there is some arrangement whereby the steamships plying at ports in the United States get the United States officials to allow these people to pass through to Canada without the inspection they would require if immigrating to the States. I cannot prove that, nor have I seen it, but it is known to be a fact.

By the Commissioner :

Q. How much was the cost to the society, Mr. Lane, what was the cost for this influx?—A. How much I spent giving bread?

Q. Yes?—A. I spent about \$106.

Q. Do you know what was the result of this large influx on wages of our people?—A. That is a very difficult question, Your Lordship.

Q. Are you in a position to state?—A. No, I have no statistics.

Q. You have no practical experience?—A. Well, I know what they say, but I do not think the Italians in Montreal have taken jobs that others would do.

Q. That is, you believe that the Italians do work in Canada and the United States that no one else would?—A. Yes, that is true of certain work.

Q. For instance, construction of railway lines?—A. An inspector would answer that better than I could. There is a distinction between the Italian colony in Montreal, that come here to reside with their families, and people who come only for the summer.

SESSIONAL PAPER No. 36b.

Mr. J. M. VIGLINO was sworn as interpreter.

POMPEO BIANCO being sworn. (Through interpreter.)

By Mr. Mowat :

Q. Are you living at 94 Felix street?—A. Yes.

Q. When did you come from Italy?—A. Eight years ago next March.

Q. Have you acted as foreman and interpreter of gangs?—A. Yes, sir, two years for the Canadian Pacific Railway.

Q. Did you go to Antonio Cordasco asking him to get you employment?—A. Yes, sir, when I came back from the company.

Q. Do you remember the date?—A. November 27 last.

Q. You saw Antonio Cordasco?—A. Yes, sir, he told me to make up a gang.

Q. Did you undertake to make up a gang?—A. Yes, 104 men.

Q. When?—A. On December 2, and they were put in the register on the 7th.

Q. Was any condition exacted by Cordasco?—A. Cordasco told me to send him the names and the money?

Q. What money?—A. \$100.

Q. Did Cordasco make that a condition of putting the names in the book?—A. He took a list.

Q. Was any greater sum demanded from you as foreman or interpreter?—A. No, sir, I was only a foreman.

Q. Was there no greater amount paid?—A. They gave him \$100.

Q. How much did you pay as foreman?—A. I paid \$10 in the month of August.

Q. August, 1903?—A. Yes, but he did not mark it in book.

Q. You paid Cordasco \$104 and \$10?—A. Yes, \$104 for men and \$10 for myself.

Q. When was employment to be given to yourself and men?—A. The beginning of March.

Q. Did you or these men get employment from Cordasco?—A. Yes, on the Canadian Pacific Railway.

Q. Were they employed at that time?—A. No, they were placed to work on Thursday last.

Q. From the first of March, when they were promised employment, until Thursday last they were idle?—A. They work for the Grand Trunk now, and not at place during that time on the Canadian Pacific Railway.

Q. They were not placed by Cordasco?—A. No.

Q. Did he return the money that was paid?—A. No, sir.

Q. Have you instructed suit to be entered to recover the money?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Through what solicitors?—A. Mr. Pelissier.

By the Commissioner :

Q. Where did these men come from whose names you gave in?—A. Montreal; they had come back from the country.

Q. When did you get the gang?—A. Last March.

Q. Did any of them come from Italy?—A. Only two or three came from Italy.

Q. Who were they?—A. Donato Dorazio, Domenico Bianco, a cousin of mine.

Q. And who was the other?—A. I do not remember now.

Q. Where did those two men come from?—A. From Italy.

Q. What place?—A. Somité Cheta.

Q. Who sent for them?—A. Domenico Bianco sent for them. He has two brothers here.

Q. Did you get any of your men from the United States?—A. Yes, but I do not know their names, about 10 or 12.

Q. Did you ask Cordasco to refund you this money?—A. Yes, I asked him and he refused to pay; he said no.

Q. On what condition was the \$10 paid?—A. He told me it would be all right, he would get me a job, and I took \$10 and gave them to him.

Q. It was to be a good job for \$10?—A. Yes.

Q. On what condition were the \$104 paid?—A. For the gang, I suppose, to be foreman.

Q. Where did you get the \$104?—A. I paid one part from my pocket, and some I collected from the men.

Q. Were they to pay any other sum besides the \$1 before getting employment?—

A. Yes; they paid \$2, but I paid it back; I did not give it to Cordasco.

Q. They paid \$2 to get employment?—A. Cordasco told me, you must get \$2 and bring money to me.

Q. How many paid you the \$2?—A. About 15, and I paid it back right away.

Q. Were you present in Montreal during April and May last?—A. Yes, I was here with all the men.

Q. Did you see a large number of Italians here then?—A. Yes, a large number.

Q. How many?—A. All the streets were full.

Q. Can you give me the number as near as you think?—A. Two or three thousand, I do not know.

Q. Where did they come from?—A. Some from Italy, some from work, some from the United States. From the United States I had 15 men in my house.

Q. What induced them to come here?—A. I don't know.

Q. Did they not state why they came here?—A. They said, we saw a notice in the newspapers there was work in British Columbia.

Q. What newspapers?—A. I don't know.

Q. Where did they see this notice?—A. In the United States.

Q. But those that came from Italy, why did they come here?—A. I don't know.

Q. Who obtained employment for your gang?—A. One part myself and one part my nephew, who lives in Burketon. One of the parties works at Burketon.

Q. Are they on the Canadian Pacific Railway?—A. No, on other contracts with Mr. Foran.

Q. How much are they getting?—A. \$1.75 per day.

Q. How much do the foremen get?—A. \$2.25.

Q. Are they employed in Montreal?—A. Yes, they started last Thursday for the Grand Trunk Railway and for manufacturers.

Q. How much are they getting?—A. Most of them \$1.50 per day and others 20 cents an hour, so that they make \$10 or \$15 per week.

Q. Are all your gang employed now?—A. Yes, one portion I sent to Mr. Dini on Thursday last; they went to Burketon.

Q. For Mr. Dini?—A. Yes.

Q. Do you know how much they paid Mr. Dini?—A. I don't know.

Q. Have you anything else to say?—A. I can say that my gang owe me \$500 for support and cannot give me the money back, because they did not start early enough to work.

Q. Your gang owes you \$500?—A. Yes.

Q. What was that money advanced them for?—A. To give them something to eat and their board.

Q. During the last spring?—A. Yes, because I was obliged to keep them until last Thursday, eight days ago.

Q. It will take all their time to pay back?—A. Yes, I think this year they cannot make enough to live, only two or three months work.

By Mr. Walsh:

Q. Why did you pay these \$10 in August?—A. Because Cordasco told me that to get a good place I would have to make a little present, and I gave him \$10.

Q. Not for work this year?—A. Yes. I had paid before I left here on 3rd May, 1903.

SESSIONAL PAPER No. 36b.

By the Commissioner:

Q. Did you pay \$10 each year you went out?—A. I gave him \$10 or \$15.

Q. Every time you went out?—A. Yes, every season for the two years I worked for him.

GIUSEPPE MIGNELLA being sworn. (Through interpreter.)

By Mr. Mowat:

Q. Did you apply to Antonio Cordasco for work?—A. When I came back from the country in November last I went to Cordasco and he said, 'Mignella you must make up a gang.'

Q. He asked you to make up a gang?—A. Yes.

Q. Have you had experience for some years?—A. No, none.

Q. What condition did Cordasco make, what did he tell you?—A. He says make up a gang.

Q. And did you make up a gang?—A. Yes, and I gave money to him.

Q. How many were there in the gang?—A. 42.

Q. And you paid \$42?—A. Yes.

Q. How much for yourself?—A. \$25 for myself.

Q. When were you promised work?—A. He promised work for the beginning of March.

Q. Were you ready with your gang?—A. Yes.

Q. And work was not given?—A. No, sir.

Q. And no signs of work?—A. No, sir; he told me to wait.

Q. Did you ask for the money back?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Was the money refused?—A. Some of the men went to ask for the money and were told by Cordasco that he did not know them but knew Mignella, so I went myself but he said he did not know me.

Q. Did he ask you for any further sum in addition to the \$1?—A. Yes, he asked me to get \$2 more from each man, but I did not.

Q. Where did you get the men from, the United States or from Italy?—A. They were all living where I was boarding, 474 Lagauchetière street.

By the Commissioner:

Q. Did you know any of the Italians that came from Italy during the spring?—A. I knew some.

Q. How many?—A. I know three from my own place and some from other places.

Q. Who brought them out?—A. Fratello; there are some here now boarding in the same house and some in court. They stated to me that they had consulted Cordasco's newspaper.

Q. What are the names of these men in court?—A. (Pointing them out.) Grisaphé, Saverio and Antonio Sicari. There were eight, three young boys in the passage and three others over there near the coils.

Q. Do you owe Mr. Cordasco any money?—A. I owe him \$40. I gave him my note for \$15 and I paid \$10.

The COMMISSIONER TO MR. WALSH.—Has Mr. Cordasco that note with him?

Mr. WALSH.—I will ask him to look and to bring it over to-morrow morning.

The WITNESS.—I paid \$10. He marked down \$15 on book and \$5, he took \$5 from \$20 and kept it.

By the Commissioner:

Q. Did you sign a note for \$40?—A. Yes. There was no amount on note, I saw only my name.

Mr. VINCENZO SCIANO, being sworn. (Through interpreter).

By Mr. Mowat :

Q. Did you apply to Mr. Cordasco for work and when?—A. Yes, in November last, about the 20th or 22nd.

Q. What did you pay him?—A. I gave him \$10.

Q. When were you promised work?—A. In the spring, March or April.

Q. Were you to make up a gang?—A. Cordasco told me I will give you the men, otherwise if men cannot be supplied here I will send you to New York.

Q. Did you supply men?—A. No.

Q. And did not get work?—A. No.

Q. Did you get back the \$10?—A. No, sir. I went and asked him for my money, and he asked me what are you asking for, and I said I was asking for my rights, and he told me that I had no rights at all. I told him to look at his books and see if I had no rights at all, and he said your name is not in the book.

Q. When was this?—A. January last, 17th or 20th.

Q. You were not to get work until the spring?—A. I was looking for work, and he said your name is not in the book. There was a crowd waiting for work, but there was no work.

Q. But he was not to get you work until March, why did you go there?—A. I went there like the rest.

Q. Did he afterwards find your name in his book?—A. Yes.

Q. Did you ever apply again for a return of the money after January?—A. Yes, and he gave me \$5 back.

Q. Did you renounce all claims against him?—A. I did not.

By the Commissioner :

Q. Where did you come from?—A. Buffalo.

Q. Who brought you here?—A. Mateo Farina.

Q. When?—A. On August 30 last.

Q. Who was Mateo Farina representing?—A. He was a foreman.

Q. Foreman for whom?—A. Cordasco.

Q. What work were you engaged for?—A. Foreman.

Q. On what work?—A. Railway.

Q. Which railway?—A. For the C.P.R.

Q. When was it?—A. We started work on September 12 last, and I arrived in Montreal about August 30. When I went to Buffalo I had a trip pass, and when I arrived in Montreal I was obliged to pay him \$7. He said if you will not give me \$7, I will have you arrested.

Q. Who?—A. Cordasco.

Q. What did you do?—A. I paid.

Q. \$7 for the trip?—A. Yes.

Q. Was that a portion of the \$10 that you paid him?—A. No, the C.P.R. gave him a free pass; Cordasco charged that for food. We were one day and a night on the road. We had no food, and of course we complained to Cordasco. He said you will find food in the car. There were two boxes of sardines, two pounds of cheese and one loaf of bread, and we paid \$7 each for that, for one day and night. When we arrived about 150 miles from Fort William we told our foreman that we had paid \$7 for food going down to Montreal. He said that is nothing, you will see now when you draw your pay. We paid \$7.10 for a day and a night before.

Q. Where?—A. At Ignace. We went to the head office there and tried to get back our money, and the boss told us we could not, as Cordasco took that money.

SESSIONAL PAPER No. 36b.

Mr. MICHELE TISI being sworn. (Through interpreter.)

By Mr. Mowat :

Q. Did you apply to Mr. Cordasco on November 16 last for employment?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Did he demand money from you and how much?—A. I was working for the Canadian Pacific Railway, and I came back from work on November 14. Cordasco had told me when you come back again I will give you another job for one gang of 100. I made up a couple of gangs of 100 and paid \$10 for my part and the men paid \$2.

Q. Did you pay \$2 to Cordasco?—A. The men paid.

Q. The men that you got paid?—A. Yes, some of the gang did. I got \$78 and the others went and paid \$2.

Q. And you paid \$10?—A. Yes.

Q. When were you to get work?—A. There was no more work.

Q. Did he not promise you?—A. He said we have no more work, but this will remain for next season.

Q. When does the next season begin?—A. When the work goes on like last year, on November 27 I went to work with a gang of 100 men. I worked about two months with Rafaele Giasso. I had 50 men before and two foremen for 100 men.

Q. You yourself paid \$2 for 50 men?—A. I did not pay myself.

Q. The 50 men and not yourself paid?—A. Yes, the men paid.

Q. After they paid when were they to go to work?—A. They went to work; I am not complaining about that.

Q. Why did you give up work?—A. I went on November 27 to work. The men paid their \$2 and I paid \$10 for myself on November 16. There was no work, so we waited for a few days and worked for Mr. Beemer, a contractor.

Q. You never worked for the Canadian Pacific Railway?—A. No.

Q. Did they get work with Beemer through Cordasco?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. When did Beemer's work finish?—A. I arrived in Montreal on January 27.

Q. Did you ask your money back from Cordasco?—A. I did not ask money, because I left the money there for this season.

Q. And you did not get work this season?—A. No.

Q. How long have you been idle?—A. From January 27.

RAFAELE DI ZAZZA, being sworn.

By Mr. Mowat :

Q. How long have you been in this country?—A. Fifteen years.

Q. As interpreter and foreman?—A. Foreman.

Q. Did you apply to Cordasco for employment?—A. I always worked for Cordasco since I have been in Canada, the last five years.

Q. Have you got any complaint in regard to work this year?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Did you pay Cordasco money?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. When and about how much?—A. About the middle of January.

Q. How much?—A. \$10 for a job as foreman with 83 men.

Q. How much did they pay each?—A. \$1 each.

Q. When was work to commence?—A. To commence on March 1, but March, April and May went and there was no work.

Q. Did you ask for your money back?—A. No.

A. No, you thought that no use?—A. No. I tried to get a job, and we worked for a little while.

Q. Did he ask for more than \$1?—A. Only \$1.

By the Commissioner :

Q. Did the men get employment through him?—A. Some.

Q. Did they pay anything extra?—A. I don't know.

SALVATORE MOLLO, being sworn. (Through interpreter.)

By Mr. Mowat :

Q. Did you apply to Cordasco for work on January 9?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Have you been foreman of a gang?—A. Yes.

Q. Did he ask you to pay him?—A. Yes.

Q. How much?—A. \$10.

Q. Were you to get up a gang?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. How many?—A. Seventy.

Q. Did they pay?—A. Yes.

Q. How much?—A. Sixty paid \$1 each and 40 \$3 for a promise of a job. I gave him \$81 myself.

Q. For how many men?—A. Some paid \$2 and some \$3. I paid myself for them. They gave me the money.

Q. Why did some pay \$2 and some \$3?—A. Some of them paid \$2 more last January when they registered, and some paid \$3 later on.

Q. When was that, how long after January?—A. About two or three weeks ago.

Q. In the month of July?—A. Yes, the same morning I paid \$81 for 42 or 43 names, in the beginning of July.

Q. When was the work to begin?—A. In a couple of days; every time they went to the office they were told to-morrow or after to-morrow.

Q. If they were promised work on March 1 and did not get it, why did they pay him \$2 more?—A. He always put off the men saying to-morrow or after to-morrow, and at last the men came to me saying they would like to get money back. I went to Cordasco to ask for the money and he said, get out or I will break your face.

Q. He would push your face in, that was within the last few days?—A. Yes, sir, when I went down to his office.

By the Commissioner :

Q. Did you get a paper like this?—A. The men do not know him at all, they know me. When I went there to his bank, he would not hear me.

By Mr. Walsh :

Q. Is it not true that Cordasco has returned some of the money to some of the men?—A. I do not know, but the men came to my house and asked for money and I told them to go down and see Cordasco.

Q. Where are these men?—A. Some have left, some were asking for money, so I borrowed \$10 from a friend and gave it to them. The day after I went down to Cordasco and told him I paid \$10 for the men and I said give me \$10 at any rate, and he gave me \$10. We could get nothing more from Cordasco, and we could not get work. We spent all our money, sometimes \$6 or \$7 trying to get a job. Cordasco used to tell us to-morrow, next week, but to-morrow or next week never came.

By Mr. Mowat :

Q. I see your picture in the supplement of the banquet to Cordasco, did you contribute towards that?—A. Yes, myself. I paid \$5. I had no money and was obliged to go and borrow it.

SESSIONAL PAPER No. 36b.

RAFAELE DI ZAZZA, re-examined.

By the Commissioner :

- Q. You sent for your wife on November 26 last?—A. Yes, sir.
 Q. How much had you to pay for tickets?—A. I forget, about \$42, yes \$41.65.
 Q. When did she arrive here?—A. About February 27.
 Q. How long does it take to come?—A. About 12 days via New York, 12 days from here.

RAFAELE ITALIANO, being sworn. (Through interpreter).

By Mr. Mowat :

- Q. Did you apply to Cordasco for work on November 27 last?—A. Yes, sir.
 Q. Did he say that you would have to pay him?—A. Yes.
 Q. How much did you pay?—A. \$10 on November 27.
 Q. How much for yourself?—A. \$18 altogether for myself.
 Q. Did you ever pay any more?—A. No.
 Q. Did you ever pay \$7?—A. No.
 Q. Only \$18 in all?—A. Yes.
 Q. When were you to get work?—A. On March 20 or 25.
 Q. Did you get a job?—A. No.
 Q. Did you ask for your money?—A. No, I asked him last year and he told me he did not give it back.
 Q. Did you ever know him to give back any money to anybody?—A. No.

By the Commissioner :

- Q. How long have you lived in Canada?—A. Four years.
 Q. You lived in Montreal?—A. Yes.

GUISEPPE ZOLAIRE, being sworn. (Through interpreter).

By Mr. Mowat :

- Q. Have you been employed on the C.P.R., and when did you go to work?—A. On July 3.
 Q. July 3 this year?—A. Last year.
 Q. When out on the work were you bitten by mosquitoes?—A. Yes, bitten by black flies while employed.
 Q. How much did you pay to Cordasco?—A. We paid \$9 for three.
 Q. When did you pay that money?—A. On May 15.
 Q. These men were not foremen?—A. No.
 Q. Did you pay the money to Cordasco himself?—A. Yes.

By the Commissioner :

- Q. Why did you pay that money?—A. Because Cordasco said if you want work for the season you will bring \$3.
 Q. Did he demand \$3 before giving employment?—A. Yes.
 Q. What work were you on?—A. With a contractor.
 Q. On the C.P.R.?—A. Yes, sir. We signed a contract that they could not put me out before four months, and after working three days we were sacked.
 Q. Who sacked you?—A. The boss foreman.
 Q. I suppose he was sacked too?—A. Yes.
 Q. How much had he paid for himself?—A. \$3.
 Q. He was not a foreman?—A. No, he was just a labourer.

ANTONIO SICARI, being sworn. (Through interpreter.)

By the Commissioner :

- Q. Where did you come from?—A. From Italy.
- Q. When?—A. Arrived here on May 15.
- Q. What part of Italy? —A. Reggio, Calabrie.
- Q. What made you think of coming here?—A. They sent so many circulars and newspapers and some representatives.
- Q. Have you got any of them?—A. No, I have not got any.
- Q. Who sent them?—A. A man named Pasano; he paid for many men.
- Q. How many?—A. In my village, about 20.
- Q. What cards had this man, what name?—A. Pasano.
- Q. Where did he direct you to go?—A. He gave the address to each man, and told us to go to Cordasco, and we paid 450 francs each.
- Q. All?—A. Yes, all. I paid 450 francs; there were 90 of us paid the same amount.
- Q. Where were you directed to go?—A. To Cordasco; they gave us his name and address.
- Q. What did you do in New York?—A. We were visited and examined and came direct to Montreal and went to Cordasco and paid him \$3.
- Q. You came direct to Montreal and paid Cordasco \$3?—A. Yes.
- Q. When?—A. We paid to the foreman and the foreman gave the money to Cordasco.
- Q. How many men came over with you in the same vessel?—A. 750 Italians.
- Q. Did they all come to Montreal?—A. I think there remained about 30 in New York.
- Q. About 30 remained in New York?—A. Yes.
- Q. Had they the addresses of Cordasco, all of these men?—A. Yes.
- Q. Did you see any circulars from Cordasco?—A. Oh, yes, there were lots and newspapers.
- Q. Do you know where any of these are now?—A. I do not know.
- Q. What was on the circular?—A. It stated that any man that could come would make plenty money, so that we came to this country and left our families.
- Q. Did the circular state how many men were wanted?—A. It stated that every man should like to come because he could make lots of money.
- Q. Did they state the wages?—A. Yes, sir.
- Q. How much?—A. From 7.50 to 10 lire per day; stonemason 15 lire, or about \$3 a day.
- Q. When did you arrive in Montreal?—A. On May 15.
- Q. Did you get any employment at all since you came here?—A. We were promised work from day to day and some got work.
- Q. How many did get work, between 600 and 700?—A. I do not know, because we did not stay in the same place.
- Q. Were there many without money?—A. No one had money.
- Q. How were you supported?—A. Well, our friends helped us some and others helped us.
- Q. How many are there now without work?—A. All these here have no work.
- Q. Are there 100 without work?—A. I mean only where I board myself.
- Q. Yes, only those you know?—A. There are more than 100 without work.
- Q. More than 100?—A. Yes, they all go to Cordasco's bureau for work. Of course, we paid before and cannot pay any more.
- Q. Does he ask for any more before giving work?—A. No, sir.

SESSIONAL PAPER No. 36b.

MICHELE CILLA, being sworn. (Through interpreter.)

By Mr. Mowat :

Q. How long have you been in Canada?—A. Since last May, 1903.

Q. Have you been foreman?—A. No, sir.

Q. Have you applied to Cordasco for work and did Cordasco get money from you?
—A. When I arrived in this country Cordasco's brother took me down to Cordasco's, and I paid \$3.

Q. Were you promised work?—A. This was last year; he gave me work.

Q. This year did you pay any more?—A. Yes.

Q. How much?—A. On March 22 last I paid \$13 for 13 men at \$1 each to Cordasco.

Q. Was work promised to them?—A. Yes, he said we would start with his brother on April 1.

Q. For the Canadian Pacific Railway?—A. Vincenz Cordasco left Montreal on April 14.

Q. You were promised to go with that crowd?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. You were not taken?—A. No, sir.

Q. Did you ask for your money back?—A. He said I will send you to work in a few days with my nephew.

Q. Did he do so?—A. No, sir.

Q. Is it the practice for you to pay each season to be put on the register?—A. Why should we pay.

Q. If a man goes up and comes back, has he to pay again?—A. I left job I had on ship, Cordasco promised me I will send you to work on the railway.

Q. How often have you paid Cordasco?—A. I paid him twice, once I paid \$1 and then I paid \$40 to Cordasco.

Q. For how many men?—A. I paid \$3 for thirteen men for to get a job on the C.P.R. Some time after I went to Cordasco and told him, I have lost check, I have no work, you will give me no job, will you be good enough to give me back my money, my \$40. He had a revolver in his hand and he said, if you ask any more for your money I will pull forty drops of blood from your forehead.

Q. Did that threat affect the matter, were you threatened?—A. Yes, he had a revolver in his hand.

Q. Where?—A. In his private house, I can swear that was in his house.

ANTONIO SICARI, re-examined

By the Commissioner:

Q. What was the name of the steamer you came in?—A. *Santo Trado*.

Q. What line?—A. The Italian General Navigation Company.

FRANCESCO PICIMENTO, being sworn. (Through interpreter).

By the Commissioner:

Q. How old are you?—A. Going on 19 years.

Q. When did you come to Montreal?—A. Arrived here April 25 last.

Q. Where did you come from?—A. Reggio, Calabria.

Q. What was the name of the steamer?—A. I think the name was *Ingleterra*.

Q. Who paid your passage coming out?—A. I paid myself.

Q. How much?—A. \$34.20.

4-5 EDWARD VII., A. 1905

Q. How many came out with you?—A. From the same village there were about thirteen or fourteen.

Q. From all parts?—A. 1,800, with the sailors.

Q. How many came to Montreal?—A. Fourteen came to Montreal.

Q. Did you come direct to Montreal?—A. The ship arrived in New York.

Q. You came to New York?—A. Yes.

Q. How many men came from the ship through from New York to Montreal?—
A. Fourteen from my place; I do not know about the rest.

Q. Were there many?—A. Yes, many.

Q. Did you see any papers to induce you to come here?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. What were they?—A. They came from Montreal.

Q. What name was on them?—A. Cordasco bank.

Q. Who showed you these papers or gave them to you?—A. Some gentleman from that place.

Q. Did you know whether the gentleman was from the steameship or another gentleman?—A. I do not know.

Q. He left the paper with you?—A. Yes, he had lots of papers.

Q. What did the paper say?—A. All those who wished could come to Montreal and make plenty of money.

Q. Did you come out in the same boat as Antonio Sicari?—A. No, before him, the ship before.

Q. Did you know these men in Italy?—A. Yes, sir, in Reggio.

Q. What part of Italy?—A. Reggio Calabria.

Q. How long before you came out did you see the circulars?—A. They commenced to post the circulars in February two years before.

Q. You saw that circular two years ago?—A. There was a circular telling them to come here and make money.

Q. Whose name was on the last circular?—A. I do not remember.

Q. Do you remember the name on the Montreal circular?—A. Yes,

Q. Whose name?—A. Antonio Cordasco, Montreal.

Q. When you arrived here where did you go?—A. When I arrived at the station a cousin of mine was there, and I went with my cousin.

Q. Did you apply to Cordasco for work?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. When?—A. The middle of March.

Q. Did you give Cordasco any money?—A. Yes, I paid \$3.

Q. What for?—A. I paid because he asked for it so as to send me to work in the country.

Q. Did he send you to work in the country?—A. No, sir.

Q. Has he promised since then to send you?—A. Oh, yes.

Q. Did you ask the money back?—A. Yes.

Q. And Cordasco refused to pay?—A. He said, why do you want it, you will be on the gang that will start to-morrow.

Q. Have you got any means of paying your way?—A. No, sir.

Q. How are you supported?—A. I have no more money. I was obliged to work for 50 cents a day, it ceased the other day.

Q. Are you working now?—A. No, sir.

Q. How are you supported now?—A. Last week I worked three or four days and drew a couple of dollars.

Q. Do you know any men in Montreal who came from your village this spring?—
A. There is a cousin of mine here.

SEVERIO CRESAVI, being sworn. (Through interpreter).

By the Commissioner:

Q. When did you come to this country?—A. I came to this country on May 15.

SESSIONAL PAPER No. 36b.

- Q. Where from ?—A. From Italy.
 Q. What part ?—A. Reggio, Calabria.
 Q. Who paid your passage ?—A. I paid it myself.
 Q. How much ?—A. 215 lire (\$43).
 Q. What line did you come by ?—A. The Piedmonte.
 Q. What line ?—A. I do not know, I think the Veloce.
 Q. What induced you to come out ?—A. I saw the others starting for this country and I felt like doing the same.
 Q. Did you have any circulars at all ?—A. No, sir.
 Q. When did you arrive in Montreal ?—A. On May 15 last.
 Q. How many came out on the same boat ?—A. 550.
 Q. Did you all come to Montreal ?—A. No, sir, only 25.
 Q. Where did the others go ?—A. To New Work.
 Q. Did any of them come afterwards from New York to Montreal ?—A. I do not know.
 Q. Did you apply to Cordasco for work ?—A. Yes, sir.
 Q. How did you come to do that ?—A. He said, if you have \$3 you will go to work, and I paid the \$3.
 Q. Why did you go to Cordasco ?—A. Well, I saw other men going there and I tried to get a job, and went there myself.
 Q. Did you get a job ?—A. No, sir.
 Q. Have you asked for a job more than once ?—A. Yes, I asked every day.
 Q. What did Cordasco say ?—A. Well, all right, you will go to-morrow, but I never went.
 Q. Did you ask for your money ?—A. Yes, sir.
 Q. What did Cordasco say ?—A. He said he would not return the money, but to wait until I got a job.
 GIUSEPPE AGOSTINO, being sworn. (Through interpreter).

By the Commissioner:

- Q. Where did you come from ?—A. I am an Italian, I came from the province of Reggio, Calabria.
 Q. When did you come here ?—A. I have been two years in Montreal and one year in Nova Scotia.
 Q. Did you apply to Cordasco for work ?—A. I went to Cordasco and paid him, on December 23 last, \$2, \$1, for myself and \$1 for my son. I paid him also \$4 in the beginning of April last because he told me, you must pay as you will go to work. I paid \$6 altogether.
 Q. How old is your boy ?—A. About 15 years.
 Q. He charged \$3 for him ?—A. Yes, \$3 each.
 Q. How old are you ?—A. 54 years of age.
 Q. Did you receive any work at all ?—A. I worked only two days because I was waiting. I had a chance of working two days. I spent all the money I had made last summer waiting for work. I only had a chance to work two days and have no more bread.
 Q. Did Cordasco give you any work ?—A. Cordasco sent me to work, I worked one day, it was heavy work. He did not give me anything more.
 Q. Where was that ?—A. I went to work one place, I do not know where. I paid 20 cents for street cars and I gave 25 cents to Cordasco that morning, he asked me for 25 cents.
 Q. How did you get work ?—A. They did not give me a cent. There were six men and he asked 25 cents to go and try and get something for us to do. They did so and he said, why don't you go, and they went but got nothing to do.

By Mr. Walsh:

- Q. Was not the 25 cents given to pay car fare ?—A. I paid my own car fare.

BRUNO TIMPOLO, being sworn. (Through interpreter).

By the Commissioner:

Q. How long have you been in America?—A. Three years in Canada.

Q. Did you apply to Cordasco for work?—A. No, I was boarding with Giuseppe Mignella and I paid \$1 to Cordasco and he said you will pay \$1 now and \$1 when you start work. I complained to our foreman and he said go and see Cordasco and we had promises but no work.

Q. You only paid \$1?—A. Yes, sir.

RAFAELE TALIANO, being sworn. (Through interpreter).

By the Commissioner:

Q. Did you apply to Mr. Cordasco for work?—A. I signed a contract on July 6 last, to go out on the C.P.R. There was some work, but the foreman said there was three ahead of me.

Q. Who was the foreman that took your place?—A. Cordasco told me that the C.P.R. did not want any foreman with that gang and that I would have to wait.

Q. You were in the gang?—A. I had 86 names with 2 water boys. He took 32 and the rest remained here.

Q. Can you give the names of any of these men or when they were shipped?—A. On July 6.

Q. And did anybody go out in your place?—A. Cordasco told me he did not send a foreman.

Q. Did Antonio Memme go out as a foreman?—A. Yes, Memme took my place.

Q. Had Memme applied after you did?—A. Yes afterwards, I went to him on November 27 and the other on the 28th. He signed ahead of me Antonio Memme, Adolphe Miela, Bocancelli, Miorano, all these were after me.

Q. After you?—A. Yes.

Q. Had you been foreman before this year?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. No fault found with your work?—A. No, sir, I have a certificate from the superintendent.

Q. André Bocancelli went out on July 16?—A. I signed a contract on July 3 and Cordasco told me there were no places for bosses now, but, that man had no contract and went there on the 16th after me.

Q. You had applied before him?—A. Then ahead of me signed Vincenzo Gaillard, a relative of Cordasco who did not want it mentioned. He sent five foremen and James Cordasco, but I do not blame him for sending the latter but only when he sent strangers who signed after me.

GEORGE E. BURNS, being sworn.

By the Commissioner:

Q. What is your position on the C.P.R., Mr. Burns?—A. I have charge of the special service department of the C.P.R.

Q. Does the employment of Italian labour come under your department?—A. That is extra Italian labour.

Q. What do you mean by extra Italian labour?—A. That is Italian labour that cannot be picked up by local agents along the line of the railway and has to be employed for extra gangs.

Q. How long have you occupied that position?—A. In connection with the labour department since somewhere in 1900, four years.

SESSIONAL PAPER No. 36b.

Q. What means do you take in order to obtain this extra Italian labour?—A. I have engaged that labour entirely through Italian labour agents.

Q. Can you mention the names of these agents you have employed?—A. During the past three years, or since the summer of 1901, I have dealt almost exclusively through Cordasco. Previous to that I have had several others engaged, such as Mr. Dini, two gentlemen by the name of Schenker and possibly one or two more.

Q. But since 1901 you have dealt exclusively with Mr. Cordasco?—A. I have Your Honour.

Q. Was that the year you had the strike?—A. It was.

Q. And Cordasco got in touch with you during that time?—A. I think the first business I had with Cordasco was in July 1901.

Q. In connection with the strike?—A. In connection with supplying Italians to take the places of trackmen who went on strike.

Q. Was Cordasco able to supply you with all you wanted?—A. Yes, largely, of course we were short.

Q. That was his special work?—A. It was.

Q. I understand he visited the United States for the purpose of getting men, with you?—A. Not personally that year, he had his agents in the United States.

Q. He has agents in the United States that he gets to work for him when necessary?—A. I believe that is the case Your Honour.

Q. Did he visit the United States with you last year, last September?—A. He did, Your Honour.

Q. What for?—A. He went down for the purpose of getting some agencies for steamship companies.

Q. Was that for the purpose of getting Italians from Italy?—A. I don't know about that. The way it came about was this. He only had a regular office and was doing a large business, but he had no steamship agencies, and of course when these Italians come back from work most of them have a good deal of money which they want to send over to their relatives and friends, some for their wives and children and they buy these steamship prepaid tickets. Cordasco was desirous of getting a line of these tickets from the different steamship agents, and he came to me about the matter, and I told him he could easily get agencies if he made the proper representations to the agents in New York.

Q. You recommended him?—A. I took some steps to get these agencies for him,

Q. I suppose he paid you for your services going down there?—A. No.

Q. He did not help out the C.P.R.?—A. I had business down there and paid my own expenses.

Q. Did he employ any agents for getting Italian labour at that time?—A. Not to my knowledge.

Q. Did you visit any other places than New York?—A. No. I was only there two or three days.

Q. What was your agreement with Cordasco when you first employed him?—A. During 1901 I paid him at the rate of \$1 per man for all men he could secure.

Q. Did you appoint him sole agent for the company?—A. I never appointed him sole agent, I have always reserved the right to cancel any agreement I had with him, there was no definite period.

Q. Did you appoint him sole agent?—A. I did not, Your Honour.

Q. You have seen his advertisement from time to time?—A. I have.

Q. In which he states that he is sole agent?—A. Yes. I think that is the translation that he is the only acting agent for the C.P.R.

Q. Besides being an immigrant agent he is interested in a newspaper called 'Corriere del Canada'?—A. I believe he is the owner.

Q. You advertise in that, do you, Mr. Burns?—A. There is an advertisement there.

Q. Who inserts that advertisement, yourself or Mr. Cordasco?—A. Mr. Cordasco paid for it, I never paid anything for it.

Q. He pays for it ?—A. Yes.

Q. Is it with your authority, you authorized it ?—A. Yes.

Q. This is the paper and advertisement. (Paper produced). I think that is one of the last issues. Mr. Cordasco put that in there?—A. I believe he did. He did not charge for that.

Q. In addition to that he has cards printed as agent for the C.P.R., has he not ?—A. I have never seen any of these cards, Your Honour.

Q. None of Cordasco's cards ?—A. I saw some of Cordasco's cards a couple of years ago, but did not know the C.P.R. was on the cards.

Q. That was after you appointed him agent ?—A. That was before the opening of the season of 1902. I had to make provision for a large number of men, we were always short of labour, and I thought we would have to employ a lot of Italians perhaps in 1902. I went to Cordasco and told him verbally that, it may have been in the end of 1901, but along there or the beginning of 1902, and I told him verbally that I expected to do a large business, but that things had been more or less unsatisfactory with the large number of other foreigners that I had hired previously from out west. I was desirous of getting business arranged so as to have the least possible trouble. I wanted men I could trust and I was prepared to pay well for them and I did not want anybody to go into this business without making money, as I was quite aware that unless inducements were offered we would not have any guarantee that the gentlemen employed would be absolutely straight, and it was my desire that there should be money in the offer.

Q. How much money did you say would be in it ?—A. I did not say at the time, I have figured since \$3,000 or \$4,000.

Q. That is what you intended to pay ?—A. Not entirely. I knew it was necessary, it was customary for agents to get fees out of their men, but did not figure that from the number of men. I thought that possibly he might make \$3,000 or \$4,000 a year.

Q. Was that all you offered him ?—A. I told him I would pay him \$5 for every day he worked, and if he only worked part of a day, then he was to be paid proportionately. Also that I would allow him any expenses he might make in drumming up men. Frequently we have to send men out to drum these men up and we have to pay their expenses. I agreed to these matters on the verbal contract.

Q. That was a verbal contract at that time, was that carried out by his actually charging that ?—A. It was Your Honour.

Q. He rendered his accounts to you from month to month and was paid this sum of \$5 per day. Have you some of these accounts ?—A. They are at the office.

Q. You might bring the whole of last year's accounts to-morrow morning?—A. All right.

Q. That has been carried on until when ?—A. Until last April.

Q. And a change was then made ?—A. We had some trouble with the Italians, the first we had, who were employed through Cordasco and certain statements were made in the judgment that was rendered, which were adverse to the C.P.R., and I was instructed that it would not do for our company to be mixed up in this sort of thing and to make some other arrangement.

Q. What was that judgment ?—A. I think it was that of one named Vaccha versus the C.P.R.

Q. Have you got a copy of that judgment ?—A. I will try and get a copy.

Q. It was in consequence of that judgment that you thought it was necessary to change the system with Mr. Cordasco ?—A. Not necessarily with Mr. Cordasco alone but to change the arrangements so that it could not be said that the C.P.R. had accepted any fees from any of their employees.

Q. I cannot understand what you mean by that.—A. Well, I think, Mr. Justice Curran when delivering judgment made the statement that by Cordasco accepting this fee, which was always customary, from the labourer, therefore the C.P.R. which had

SESSIONAL PAPER No. 36b.

appointed him agent participated in this fee, and I was instructed that it did not look very well.

Q. Then you say he had been receiving fees from workmen?—A. He collected \$2 apiece from these men.

Q. How long had he been doing that?—A. He had always been collecting \$1 for registering and \$1 for getting the job.

Q. Did he make any difference to your knowledge with respect to foremen?—A. Yes, Your Honour, I believe he did.

Q. How much did he charge them?—A. I understood he charged them \$10.

Q. And he charged you \$5 a day for the same work?—A. I forgot to state that by the agreement he was to devote his services to me when I demanded them and that he was to supply me with men before anyone else.

Q. You were his first choice?—A. For instance, last year he had orders from the G.T.R., the Dominion Coal Company, from H. J. Beemer and others, but I wanted men badly and he had to supply me.

Q. In consequence of that agreement?—A. Yes.

Q. Then what was the change made in April last?—A. In April last, I went to Cordasco and told him he was not to make any charge pending a regular written agreement, which I had been instructed by our solicitors we ought to prepare, a contract with our labour agent so that there would be no question about these matters in future. We were expecting shipments every day and if some came along, pending this agreement, I told him I would pay him \$1 per head with the understanding that he would collect nothing from the men.

Q. That included foremen as well?—A. That included everybody.

Q. Do you remember that date?—A. Some day prior to April 23, perhaps it might be a little earlier.

Q. Has that agreement been acted upon by Cordasco since?—A. I will say this much for Cordasco, he came up to me after the first gang went out and asked me if this agreement would apply to these men from whom he had taken \$1 last year in November or December.

Q. And did not want to pay it back?—A. I suppose so. He said they have been living around my office and their dollar has been earned by me. I said we will say nothing about that, but in future, any you may employ for the C.P.R., no fees must be collected.

Q. You could not deal with anybody else?—A. He hires for other people.

Q. Has he carried out that contract by charging the C.P.R. \$1 for each man he has employed?—A. He sent in his bill but I have not paid him.

Q. For how many months?—A. For April and May.

Q. For June?—A. I think, the June bill is not in yet.

Q. I thought I saw that?—A. I do not think so.

Q. It had been in your room, I have a memo of it?—A. Mr. Skinner will be able to testify as to that.

Q. Have you got the month of May. Mr. Walsh says the June account is in, Mr. Burns?—A. Yes, May and June are together.

Q. Has the April month been settled and paid for?—A. No, Your Honour.

Q. It has been initialled by Mr. Skinner, is that correct?—A. Yes, Your Honour.

Q. And who else has it been initialled by besides Mr. Skinner?—A. Initialled by Mr. Lancey.

Q. Is he your assistant?—A. He is my assistant.

Q. Why is it initialled by Mr. Lancey as correct?—A. Only as correct as to rate for service to be performed.

Q. Have the May and June months also been initialled in the same way?—A. Both are initialled by Mr. Skinner, and Mr. Lancey certifies to the voucher part as correct.

Q. Mr. Skinner is the one really in charge and certifies to the work being done?—A. Yes.

Q. And you accept his certificate ?—A. Yes.

Q. Do you not go into the items ?—A. Occasionally.

Q. Only when any difficulty arrives ?—A. Well, I certify vouchers in every month.

Q. Have you in any case certified the items without your attention being first called to any portion of them ?—A. Yes, I have turned them back lots of times.

Q. These were paid, they were passed as they now exist ?—A. These were paid, but I cannot say as to whether the bills, as practically vouched for are the same as first presented to our company. In almost every case for a long time past there have been disputes about these bills.

Q. In what respect ?—A. Likely paid too much for what we got done and for other causes. Instead of passing them with the items scored out they were rewritten.

Q. He could not succeed in getting his first claim through ?—A. No, Your Honour, I paid exactly what was right. The whole bill was rewritten and the old bill destroyed.

Q. Your method of getting workmen was to call upon Cordasco for a certain number when you needed them ?—A. We are entirely dependent upon orders from the divisions, which come through the superintendents, and we have no means of stating exactly when men are required, and formerly the superintendents would send in orders and they do yet. These orders are generally by telegram. Mr. Skinner is telephoned, and if he is busy, Mr. Cordasco is called upon to arrange the matter. A copy of the telegram sent in by the superintendent is sufficient notice for him to go ahead.

Q. How many men did you employ last year ?—A. Altogether about 8,500.

Q. Of that number, how many were Italians ?—A. 3,144.

Q. Then at the end of the year you would estimate the number you would require for the following season ?—A. As far as Italians are concerned.

Q. As far as the whole work is concerned ?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Did you do that last year ?—A. Yes.

Q. And how many did you estimate last fall for this year's work ?—A. Your Honour, a great deal depends upon certain conditions as to whether one can make a proper estimate as to what labour is going to be required in the following year. Last year the market was all down and money was tight and every one thought there was going to be no works going on this summer. All contractors and others were on uneasy street and could not get any idea. It was impossible for my department at the time to say how many men would be required, and it looked as if we would have to utilize the men in Canada first before taking up this Italian question. I may say that sometimes we have been obliged to go to the United States to bring Italians here to send to the North-west, and last year I do not suppose we took more than 1,200 out of Montreal.

Q. And how many from the States ?—A. A great portion.

Q. Over 2,000 ?—A. About 2,000.

Q. What part of the States did they come from ?—A. Principally from New York and Boston, I think more from Boston.

Q. Did Mr. Cordasco get these men ?—A. He arranged that matter for me.

Q. And when winter came on these men returned home ?—A. Most of them did. Last year 300 men stopped in Montreal, I suggested that.

Q. How many men did you estimate for this season's work last fall ?—A. I do not think I made any estimate one way or another.

Q. What means do you take to ascertain the requirements of the service ?—A. I send out to many contractors and men accustomed to employ labour and make inquiries. In addition to that I ask all the general superintendents on the line what their experience was before and what they would require for going on. In regard to the year before, I asked them their experience as to when the men quit, and requested them to state exactly how many men stayed with the company and did not jump their contracts. I thought by this means to form some idea as to the requirements for 1904, and, as I stated before I was not able to foresee.

SESSIONAL PAPER No. 36b.

Q. Did you not get any answers to your letters ?—A. I did, Your Honour.

Q. How many men, in round figures did you estimate as being required for 1904 ?
—A. I have forgotten, I do not remember what such number was.

Q. Do you think you can find anything about it in your files ?—A. Mr .Skinner may find something.

Adjourned until 10 a.m. on July 22, 1904.

THE COURT HOUSE, MONTREAL, July 22, 1904.

10 A.M.

The Commission resumed.

PRESENT:

HIS HONOUR JUDGE WINCHESTER, *Commissioner*.

H. M. MOWAT, Esq., K.C., *Counsel for the Dominion Government*.

A. J. WALSH, *for Antonio Cordasco*.

Mr. JOHN HOOLIHAN, being sworn.

By Mr. Mowat:

Q. I understand that you have been for some years employed in the Immigration Department of the Government, how long ?—A. About twenty years.

Q. What is your official position ?—A. Dominion Immigration Agent.

Q. At Montreal ?—A. At Montreal.

Q. How long have you been in that position ?—A. I suppose about 10 or 12 years.

Q. Has the Dominion Government any agencies in Italy for the purpose of sending out Italian Immigrants ?—A. I do not think so, I never heard of any.

Q. Were you here in the month of April and May last ?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. When a large number of Italians arrived without having any work provided beforehand ?—A. Yes.

Q. It has been stated here that advertisements were put in the Italian papers and other newspapers saying that as many as 10,000 men were wanted, good wages,&c., from your observation and your knowledge of the business and the interests of the country what is your opinion of that ?—A. Well, I think, the advertisement exaggerated, because 10,000 or 15,000 coming in at once, why there would be no employment for them. It would be impossible to find employment for such a number of men at once.

Q. This would constitute a positively disturbing element ?—A. I think it would unless they were provided with funds or had a society to take hold of them and manage for their maintenance or shelter.

Q. How costly would that be from your knowledge ?—A. For an ordinary labourer's maintenance, about \$3 per week.

Q. And any society would have to be well equipped with funds to handle such a crowd ?—A. Yes, sir. Not only with funds, but with shelter, accomodation, sleeping apartments and all that sort of thing.

Q. In your opinion would it be reasonable to ask of such societies that they should provide shelter ?—A. There are several societies in Montreal which provide for their own immigrants, such as the St. George Society, St. Andrew's Society. These provide everything required for the accomodation and maintenance of immigrants here for two or three days during their sojourn in Montreal.

4-5 EDWARD VII., A. 1905

Q. Just during their sojourn of two or three days, how many would they provide for?—A. No more than 15 or 20 at a time.

Q. In each case there were 1,000, 2,000 or 3,000?—A. Well, there would be no accommodation for them. Not only that, but their would be no work, or work could not be provided for more than four or five days.

Q. Was that the state of affairs in May last?—A. That was about it, the supply of labour was in excess of the demand. In the first place, we had a very late spring and there was no demand at the time for out-door labour. The C.P.R. and G.T.R., each employ a large number of navvies but were not in a position then to give them work.

Q. Is it your opinion that this immigration should not be encouraged unless there is actual work in the city?—A. Of course it would be better to have these people arrive in reasonable numbers, that is 10, 15 or 20 a week, or perhaps 30 or 40 a week. Mr. Candori could manage these.

Q. That is the extent that could be handled?—A. That is during the spring time.

By the Commissioner:

Q. What effect would such a large number have on the market for unskilled labour in Montreal?—A. Well, I think, it would have a very bad effect.

Q. In what way?—A. The supply would be in excess of the demand. Our labour market would not require such a number in a short time, for the period of two or three weeks.

Q. What would the result be?—A. Wages would decline, and it would upset the market altogether.

Q. Do you know if that actually took place?—A. No, I do not, I did not inquire into that.

Q. How many immigrants came to Montreal from Europe during the year, say for the last two or three years?—A. I would have to look up the record. I cannot answer that question just now. I can get you the data.

Q. Have you any data from which you could give me that?—A. From Europe through Montreal, well these people passing through all other ports, Quebec, Halifax &c.?

Q. All coming from Europe into Montreal?—A. Well we have had an immigration of about 130,000 last year, and a very large majority passed through Montreal.

Q. How many came from Italy?—A. Oh, I don't know, I suppose 6,000 or 8,000 came in March and April of this year.

Q. Where from?—A. From Italy and from the States.

Q. What proportion came from the States?—A. I would say about one-half probably.

Q. How many Italians are there without work to-day in Montreal?—A. I do not think there is one, for any man who is able and willing to work can find employment in Montreal.

Q. There were two or three yesterday who stated that there were about 100 unable to find work?—A. Lots of people are not willing to work. These people you will find in all large cities, the never-do-wells.

Q. How many were destitute in April or May last among that number of about 6,000?—A. I cannot tell you exactly, but I do not think there were many, not more than 25 per cent of the whole lot.

Q. Was it about that number?—A. From what I could learn.

Q. About 800 might have been destitute?—A. I cannot tell you exactly.

Q. Did you make any inquiry as to that?—A. No, I did not.

Q. Then you say that the Dominion Government does not induce any Italians to come to this country by having an agency in Italy?—A. I do Your Honour.

Q. Are there any means taken by the Dominion Government to assist the Italian immigration?—A. Well, nothing except our agents in the old country.

Q. What part of the old country?—A. England, Ireland and Scotland, and I think an agent in Belgium, I do not know of any in Italy

SESSIONAL PAPER No. 36b.

Q. Have you anything to do yourself with the immigration of Italians?—A. I distributed about 35 of these people, sent them to Ontario to work.

Q. Did you have any literature sent to Italy?—A. We have no literature in the Italian language.

Q. You have not any?—A. No.

Q. You have not sent any?—A. No.

Q. Would you know if literature were sent by the Government to Italy?—A. I do not know what our department at Ottawa might send, but from here we had nothing in the Italian language.

Q. Did any of these Italians who come to Montreal call upon you for assistance?—A. Well, a few, very few.

Q. What assistance did they ask for?—A. They wanted meals or the price of meals.

Q. How many of them?—A. About ten or twelve.

Q. Where did they come from?—A. They told me they came through the States from Italy.

Q. What time was this?—A. I think last March.

Q. Have you any oversight of the labour bureaus in Montreal?—A. No, Your Honour.

Q. Have you any supervision over them at all?—A. Now, if you will allow me to state in connection with the Italian immigration of last spring, I may say that they were a very competent lot of people, of strong, healthy figures, that is working people, they were fully competent for labourers' work.

Q. For what class of work?—A. For common labouring work, and their ages ranged from about 18 or 20 to 35, men in the very prime of life, and all they wanted was work. They did not want charity from anybody, but I believe had spent all their money on the way out here. It costs a lot of money to get here in the first place, having to pay passage money and other expenses, and very few people come here with a large amount of money in their pockets, but some of these people were, I do not say were destitute altogether, but when they had to remain here for some time were without funds, and had to fall back on the Italian society, of which Mr. Candori is secretary. He did his duty thoroughly, and then Mr. Dini, an old friend of mine, who has been keeping an agency or labour bureau for Italians has also been zealous and indefatigable in the performance of his duties, I can testify to that.

MORTIMER WALLER being sworn :

By Mr. Mowat:

Q. What is your business?—A. Employment agent, sir.

Q. How long have you been acting as employment agent?—A. About eighteen months.

Q. What class of men do you employ largely?—A. Mostly Italians.

Q. For what work do you employ them?—A. Railway work as a rule.

Q. How many have you employed this year?—A. About 450.

Q. Where is your place of business?—A. 1887 Notre Dame street.

Q. What means do you take in order to get these men?—A. I have orders from different companies asking me if I can supply them with men.

Q. How do you get the men?—A. I never found any difficulty in getting lots. They come to the office for employment.

Q. Do you find any difficulty in getting the desired number?—A. Not until now except in the last days of the summer.

Q. You have always been able to get the number you desired?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. What terms do you impose upon these men in giving them employment?—A. I charge them \$2 each.

Q. How much do you charge for foremen?—A. As a rule nothing at all.

4-5 EDWARD VII., A. 1905

Q. There is an exception to that rule?—A. Yes, sir, sometimes a foreman has not got a complete gang and has to take time to get a gang up. If a man has a gang already I charge him \$5.

Q. And his gang \$2 each?—Q. Yes.

Q. Do you give them work for that money?—A. Yes.

Q. Supposing that you do not get them work in the time stipulated, what do you do?—A. I give the money back.

Q. You refund the money?—A. In a reasonable time.

Q. How long a time?—A. When I have given the money back to the men?

Q. Yes.—A. I have given more than \$1,000 back since May. When I know that I will have work for a man within a few days, or if sometimes a man refuses to work and asks for his money back, I do not give it to him.

Q. What railway companies do you supply men for?—A. I have supplied 200 to Mackenzie & Mann, I have supplied a few men to the Grand Trunk, I am sending a lot to a mine down in Quebec and different places.

Q. Any to the C.P.R.?—A. No, sir.

Q. Have you supplied men for employment to the C.P.R.?—A. No, I only inquired whether I could supply some.

Q. With what result?—A. No result.

Q. To whom did you apply?—A. I applied to Mr. Burns on one occasion.

Q. What was his answer?—A. He was not wanting any men at all.

Q. How many men have you on your books now for employment?—A. Not more than 50 or 60.

Q. Have you work enough for them?—A. I want about 200 men to go away next week.

Q. Where to?—A. Well, I want a gang to go to the Seven Islands.

Q. Where is that?—A. About 300 miles below Quebec.

Q. Have you any agency in Italy for the purpose of getting men from there?—A. No, sir.

Q. Have you any agency in England for the purpose of getting men?—A. No, sir.

Q. What means do you take for getting men besides those coming into your office?—A. I know several Italian foremen and ask them.

Q. Do you advertise?—A. I never advertise for Italians.

Q. You remember the large number that were here in April and May last?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. How many were there here, do you recollect?—A. I think any way between 8,000 and 10,000.

Q. Do you know where they came from?—A. Well, in so far as I know, they came from the States, a lot from Italy.

Q. Do you know why they came here and what induced them to come to Canada?—A. I cannot say that I know. I only heard of advertisements being inserted in Italian papers telling of plenty of work when they got here. I know that a lot of the men got very disgusted with Canada since coming here and they will not come back.

Q. They had too rough an experience. Is there anything else you would like to state in connection with this investigation, Mr. Waller?—A. No, sir, I do not think so. Only I think myself that Englishmen should have as fair a chance of supplying this Italian labour as the Italians themselves.

Q. You think that an Englishman should have as good a chance to supply this labour?—A. Yes.

Q. You think that Englishmen have not that chance?—A. No, sir.

Q. Why?—The companies like the C.P.R. will not go to anybody but Italians for the men.

Q. Could you supply all the men the C.P.R. would require during the year?—A. I could supply a big majority.

SESSIONAL PAPER No. 36b.

Q. Could you supply 3,000 or 4,000 ?—A. Yes, sir .

Q. You say that pretty emphatically ?—A. I do, sir.

Q. What means have you to supply these men ?—A. I would have every foreman with me. I have always treated the men and foremen well who came to me for work and they will not go to anybody else.

Q. Have you had any difficulty with the men ?—A. Very little difficulty .

Q. Have contractors made any complaints about them ?—A. No, sir, I do not know of any complaints whatever.

Q. And you believe you are in a position to supply as many Italians as may be required on these railway works ?—A. Certainly.

Q. Have you a list of the names you sent out ?—A. I have a list of most of the names.

Q. Now, what methods do you adopt in order to get supplies of these men, and what do you charge them ?—A. I charge the men a fee, as I told you, and each foreman. I give them a printed receipt for the money, and if I cannot get them work and they bring back the receipt to me, I return the money unless I know that I can get work within a few days, when I refuse to make a refund.

Q. You give a similar form of that receipt, Mr. Waller, each man who pays gets a receipt ?—A. Either himself or the foreman.

Q. And if you cannot get work within a reasonable time you refund the money ? A. I refund the money.

Mr. INTERNOSCIA.—If Your Lordship will allow me to put a few questions.

Q. Mr. Waller, will you explain to the judge why you had some trouble with Giuseppe Lisa and why you have not paid him the balance of \$38 ?—A. I have not paid the balance of \$38 because I had work to give these men in the course of a few days, and after I asked them they refused to go to work.

Q. You told them to go to work Monday morning, Monday afternoon would not do. When did you receive \$80 from Mr. Lisa, what date ?—A. I cannot tell without looking at my books.

Q. Was it not on May 13 ?—A. I paid him back \$70.

Q. When you were told that these men from whom you received \$2 each were going to leave town, why did you not pay them ?—A. They were going to leave town, and broke their agreement with me.

Q. Did you not tell Mr. Lisa that you would be able to send these men, about 50 men, on May 15, while you received the money on the 13th and only sent them on May 15. Did you pay the money back ?—A. I paid back a portion of the money, the balance of \$38 I refused to pay because I sent these men away and they refused to go.

Q. Did you promise the men yourself ?—A. I offered the men work and they would not take it.

By the Commissioner:

Q. If the men would not go after being told where to go, it is their fault.—A. They can go this week and I am willing enough to take men if they will go.

Mr. ALBERTO DINI, re-examined.

By the Commissioner:

Q. You are already sworn. (Showing him a letter). Do you remember receiving that letter from the firm of Corecco & Brivio ?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. You will give the English of it ?—A. Well I cannot, Mr. Internoscia will. Will you address him ?

Q. I will.

By Mr. Internoscia:

This letter is dated May 7, 1904, and is from Bodio, Switzerland, and addressed to Mr. Alberto Dini, Montreal:—

‘You are already aware that our firm has had your address for several years, having during that time sent you a great number of labourers. They received from you all the help and information possible regarding work and we have no doubt that our sending you such men has caused you some trouble.

‘You are also aware that our firm is corresponding with the “Societa Anonima di Emigrazione, La Svizzera,” as well as with other agencies of emigration of Switzerland, which have been regularly and legally constituted.

‘You do not ignore that a brother of Mr. Schenker, one of those who has opened an office in Montreal for the exchange of money in order to compete with you, has lately opened an office in Chiasso, Switzerland, and gets passengers from Italy through the help of Schenker who is in Montreal. The latter sends to his brother in Chiasso notices and orders for the shipment of men, and the brother reads the notices to the passengers mentioning the ships they ought to go by.

‘Having had knowledge of this action on the part of Schenker we took the liberty of addressing ourselves to you in order to advise you and inform you thereof and to ask if it would be possible for you to do something for us in the matter.

In order to facilitate the thing for those who wish to go to Montreal through friends you can exact yourself in Montreal the amount of the passage money. Send us an order for shipment, saying at the same time that you should pay us only 170 francs from Chiasso to Quebec. All that you can get above that from the interested parties will remain to your benefit.

‘It is understood that our shipments will be executed as far as we are concerned with accuracy and precision.

‘We enclose herewith a list of the dates of sailings of the ships of the C.P.R., plying from Antwerp, and we beg you to reply to us and hope that the same may be favourable.

‘We remain,

CORECCO & BRIVIO.

‘P.S. You can interest yourself in another way by suggesting to those who want to get their people to Canada, to take or get transportation through our firm. Or you may give us the address of the immigrants so that we may write to them and offer them our services. When the shipment is finished we will send you a commission, such as it may be possible for us to pay.’

Q. Do you know this firm, Mr. Dini?—A. No, sir.

Q. They say that they have been communicating with you for several years?—A. Well, I told you yesterday that men coming from Chiasso gave me a card.

Q. Very many men?—A. No, sir.

Q. When did you receive this letter?—A. I do not remember, in April or May.

Q. What did you do on receipt of it?—A. I never answered it.

Q. Did you not write to them acknowledging receipt?—A. No, sir.

Q. That was not very nice?—A. I don’t know.

Q. You did not write?—A. No.

Q. You received another letter from Chiasso, dated May 12?—A. Yes, I got two.

Q. Do you know what it says, what is it in English?—A. You had better give it to Mr. Internoscia.

Q. I have a translation here, it reads:

SESSIONAL PAPER No. 36b.

CHIASSO, May 12, 1904.

'SIGNOR ALBERTO DINI,
2026 St. Catherine St.,
Ottawa.

'By this letter I wish to inform you that a certain Pedratta Ferrari Filippo will sail to-day from Antwerp by steamer *Montezuma* to Quebec and from Quebec to Montreal; he will introduce himself to you. He has your address with him like the others. This man should go to Reno, Nevada, and I pray you to do your best to see that he arrives safely at his destination. He is a person from my neighbourhood. You might furnish him with a ticket, and you will oblige us if you will credit me with the commission on that ticket.

'Societa Anonima d'Emigrazione, La Svizzera,
'IL DIRETTORE.'

A. Some men wish to go to the States and they were recommended to me to do the best I could for them.

Q. Do you remember this man going to the States?—A. I think I do.

Q. He went to the States?—A. Yes. I do not know everyone that goes to the States.

Q. How did this society get your address?—A. Well I cannot say it is long ago.

Q. They have known you for many years?—A. I cannot say it is long ago.

Q. They have known you for many years?—A. Not me, but my address.

Q. The letter states this man has your address? A. Is that the yellow card?

Q. Are these the cards that were brought out?—A. Yes.

Q. Did you send them to this company?—A. No.

Q. 'You might furnish him with a ticket,' what does that mean?—A. I do not know, he wanted to go to the States.

Q. 'And you will oblige us if you will credit me with the commission on that ticket'?—A. I never credited him with commission, of course I got no commission.

Q. Did you write an answer to this letter?—A. No sir.

Q. Now, you remember the advertisement you were speaking about yesterday, which Mr. Mowat asked you about, as to 10,000 men for next spring?—A. I saw it in the Italian papers.

Q. How much did you pay for the advertisement?—A. Nothing.

Q. Did you give Mr. Di Rossa something for it?—A. No, sir.

Q. You did not pay for the advertisement in Montreal?—A. No, sir.

Q. Are you sure that you did not answer that letter?—A. No, sir.

Q. Have you any other letters that you received?—A. I only got two letters.

Q. You told me yesterday you had nothing and I found this?—A. I was giving a couple of people a sheet of paper in my drawer and came across these two letters from Chiasso, I did not remember them.

Mr. BURNS, re-examined.

By the Commissioner:

Q. When we adjourned last evening we were inquiring into the question of the estimated number of labourers you would require for 1904?—A. Yes, Your Honour.

Q. Well, now, you told me that you had written to some superintendents for information so as to enable you to estimate the number?—A. Yes, Your Honour.

Q. What was the result of your efforts to estimate that number?—A. The effort was fruitless. On looking over the matter, I found that some superintendents did not give correct information, some delayed answering so long that as a matter of fact the spring was so far advanced, and we saw that there was going to be a large number of labourers in America, and we dropped the whole matter. There was no estimate.

Q. You stated last evening that you thought there would not have been so many required for 1904 as had been used in 1903?—A. That statement was based on inquiries I had made, and the result of this communication was that I thought there would be a stringency in the money market and, consequently, probably few works of any importance going on throughout the country.

Q. That is what you explained?—A. Yes.

Q. Was that your opinion at that time?—A. It was, Your Honour.

Q. Now you said you had about 8,000 or 9,000 on the list in 1903, of which about 3,100 were Italians?—A. Yes.

Q. Now, how many did you think you would require for 1904, the Italian part of that number?—A. I had no idea whatever.

Q. Did you think you would require as many in 1904 as you had in 1903?—A. It is quite impossible to determine, I will tell you why. The Italians on our line are used to replace those men in the North-west Territories who have been employed earlier in the season on contracts, and to whom at this time of the year, July and August, when the harvest starts, the farmer offers high wages and they jump their jobs, and the work is left behind, and we have to rely on anything we can get. As a rule they come here for labour, as there is none in the west, and the only thing that is found is Italian labour.

Q. Your duty is to provide them in case of emergency?—A. Yes.

Q. What means do you take to provide them?—A. That was generally all right, it does not require particular action.

Q. It required some information from your agent who employed them?—A. We kept pretty well posted as to labour immigration in New York and in Boston.

Q. Who got that information?—A. We get correspondence that would show.

Q. That correspondence with Cordasco and others would show exactly, but these were letters which you really did not answer then?—A. Yes.

Q. But you relied upon Mr. Cordasco to supply you with all the Italians you wanted?—A. Well, I heard.

Q. You relied upon him?—A. Yes.

Q. If you relied upon him, I suppose it was necessary to give him some information as to the number you required?—A. Well, I have never given him any definite information.

Q. Never any definite information?—A. No.

Q. Did you give him any information as to the number you would require in 1904?—A. None.

Q. None whatever?—A. None whatever.

Q. Never spoke about it?—A. I may have discussed the matter.

Q. Have you discussed the matter with Mr. Cordasco as to the likely number you would require in 1904?—A. It was possible.

Q. Do you know how many you suggested to him?—A. I do not remember suggesting any number.

Q. No number likely to be required?—A. No.

Q. To any body else?—A. No, sir.

Q. Do you remember saying to anybody that the Grand Trunk Pacific would require a great number?—A. No, Your Honour. I may have inquired if the Grand Trunk Pacific would require them.

Q. But you never mentioned that to anybody?—A. We may have discussed that matter.

Q. With Cordasco?—A. Yes, it was discovered that the Grand Trunk Pacific was not going to require any Italians.

Q. When did you discover that?—A. I think late in the spring.

Q. This year?—A. Yes.

Q. You lay your plans before spring opens, so as to arrange things?—A. We did not this season.

Q. I thought you stated you inquired late in the fall to get the number?—A. We inquired through the general superintendent.

SESSIONAL PAPER No. 36b.

Q. At that time had you no idea of the number that would be required on other lines as well as on your own?—A. No, Your Honour.

Q. None at all?—A. No.

Q. I think there was correspondence to show that was the case. (Looks at correspondence.) Look at that letter, Mr. Burns. (Mr. Burns reads letter.) Was that letter written by you Mr. Burns?—A. Yes.

Q. And I suppose the statement there is an estimate?—A. That is in December.

Q. I am talking about December?—A. Yes, Your Honour.

Q. That was your opinion at that time?—A. I was thinking about the spring.

Q. I was referring to the fall not the spring, Mr. Burns. Now your letter reads as follows :—

‘10th December, 1903.

‘F. P. Brady, Esq.,

‘Asst. General Superintendent,

‘Winnipeg, Man.

‘DEAR SIR,—Referring to the attached, my object in asking for this information is to make adequate provision early in 1904 for the labour requisitions during the season of that year.

‘This year we had an unprecedented demand for labour from all sources over this company's lines, and we have shipped out in the neighbourhood of 10,000 men, skilled and unskilled, so you see that it is very important for us to know what proportion of those sent out on the lines worked out their contracts, so that some information may be obtained as to the reasons for so many men jumping their work with a view of remedying that state of affairs during the coming season. It is also necessary to find out what the local supply of labour is on each division.

‘As you are possibly aware, there is every indication of a large demand for labour in this country in 1904. I am informed that possibly the Grand Trunk Pacific may want a great many thousand men, and as the supply of labour is limited in Canada, steps may possibly have to be taken on the part of our company to import labour from abroad, or make some definite arrangement in regard to the supply available in Canada.

‘I am sorry to trouble you for this information, knowing you are so very busy, but I would like very much to be in a position to make my report about the first week in January, 1904.

‘Would you kindly strain a point to get your superintendents to forward information desired.

‘Yours truly,’

Q. That was your opinion?—A. That was at the time. I presumed the Grand Trunk Pacific was going ahead.

Q. At that time that was your opinion, Mr. Burns?—A. Well, if it was not I would not have stated it.

Q. You stated yesterday that your opinion was just the other way, that the same number would not be required in 1904 as in 1903?—A. Well, I think that I took into consideration the Grand Trunk Pacific project when I wrote that letter.

Q. I know that I was asking you what your opinion was in the fall of 1903. You stated your opinion was that a large number would not be required. Now you wrote in December you would require more. Which is correct?—A. It is difficult to reconcile both, although I utilized the information I had on hand when I wrote.

Q. The information which you had in your mind in the fall of 1903? Was it that you considered then you would have a greater or a lesser number of employees in 1904 than in 1903? You told me yesterday you would have less. In this letter written on December 10, 1903, you say: ‘As you are possibly aware there is every indication of a large demand for labour in this country in 1904?—A. Well, the only explanation I have is that I was a little defective as to the time or place.

Q. I think it is part of your duty. When I was trying to find the aggregate number in former years, you showed me a statement to the effect that you did not think that you would require so large a number. Which is correct, your recollection or the letter ?—A. I should say my letter.

Q. How soon did you speak to Mr. Cordasco about supplying the C.P.R. with Italian labour ?—A. I have no recollection of speaking to Mr. Cordasco about Italian labour, as to giving Cordasco any definite idea.

Q. I do not want anything definite at all, when you spoke to him it would be as early as September, 1903 ?—A. I do not think so.

Q. December ?—A. No.

Q. You understand Mr. Cordasco's position. He would have to get men, he would have to make arrangements ahead ?—A. Certainly.

Q. How long ahead would he require to make arrangements ?—A. It just depends on the state of the labour market.

Q. It is not a question of the labour market, supposing 10,000 men were wanted, how long ahead ?—A. It just depends on the season and state of labour market.

Q. You were beginning to look for men as early as the opening of spring, now when would you require to inform Mr. Cordasco ?—A. I do not think I ever made any preparation.

Q. Did he ?—A. Not to my knowledge.

Q. Not to your knowledge ?—A. Not to my knowledge, I do not know, he made no preparation whatever.

Q. Never advertised ?—A. I do not know whether he ever advertised.

Q. You advertise in the same paper he does, you get that paper ?—A. I have never seen his advertisements for men.

Q. You remember the advertisement Mr. Dini says he put in in consequence of the advertisement of Mr. Cordasco ?—A. I do, Your Honour.

Q. That was done in 1903, was it not ? (Shows paper). This is for next spring. Can you read the advertisement and say what was in it ?—A. Yes, Your Honour.

Q. You say these labour agents had to prepare sometime ahead and you had to prepare some time ahead ?—A. No, the preparation was not made. We had no data to go on.

Q. I understand that you were preparing to get ready for the work ?—A. We were looking around.

Q. Did you speak to Cordasco ?—A. No, sir.

Q. You did not speak to him at all ?—A. I spoke to Cordasco several times.

Q. When ?—A. In the course of the winter.

Q. When you were writing these letters ?—A. Hardly before I wrote these letters.

Q. Would you know better ?—A. I might have, but I do not think so, it is rather hard to remember the exact time.

Q. I do not know that it is very hard, it is your business to meet the general press of business ?—A. Yes. Possibly the Grand Trunk Pacific might want a great many thousand men, as the supply is limited in Canada, steps would possibly have to be taken by our company to import labour from abroad or make some definite agreement as to the supply of labour.

Q. That was your opinion at the time ?—A. Yes, some steps, some arrangement would have to be made. When I come to think of this matter, I can tell you what made me write this letter.

Q. Well ?—A. I had been in New York and had met our agent.

Q. That was the time you were down with Cordasco ?—A. I think that was the time, and he informed me that the general agent of Anchor line had told him that he was to bring in 10,000 for the Grand Trunk Pacific.

Q. Who was the agent ?—A. I do not know. This agent stated that they were bringing in about 10,000 men for the Grand Trunk Pacific this spring, and I think it must have been acting on this information that I wrote that letter.

SESSIONAL PAPER No. 36b.

Q. That was in September you were down ?—A. I think not, I think it was later than September, I think it was on December.

Q. Had Mr. Cordasco that information too ?—A. I think he had.

Q. You were both together at the time ?—A. Yes.

Q. So that he was also aware that they were then preparing for a large number of men ?—A. Yes:

Q. And it is in consequence of that you were taking steps to prepare for same ?—A. To ascertain what was required.

Q. It was your duty, you were compelled to do that in the interests of your company ?—A. Certainly.

Q. At that time you thought that 'steps may possibly have to be taken on the part of our company to import labour from abroad ?'—A. Yes, Your Honour. I may say that I took some steps in regard to the importation of labour with the management. It was my desire to send one of our men over—

Q. To Italy ?—A. No, to England, Scotland and Scandinavia for the purpose of getting immigrants.

Q. How many were you going to get out ?—A. We wanted him to only get prepared.

Q. He was not going to send men over ?—A. Only 100 or 200. We wanted him to be ready, if we required men to send them by next ship.

Q. How many did you think you would send for, give me some idea ?—A. It developed afterwards.

Q. Never mind afterwards, at the time you were considering these ideas.—A. Well, my idea was to provide for the future.

Q. How many did you think would be required, not only for this year, but other years ?—A. I have no idea.

Q. Well, 10,000, 20,000 ?—A. Speaking from other years I should say not less than 5,000.

Q. You would not go into such an undertaking for the company without consulting the management. You proposed that to the management this spring ?—A. Yes.

Q. When ?—A. I think it was in the month of February or beginning of March.

Q. Did you talk to Cordasco about helping in this matter ?—A. Cordasco was not in it, the Italian question did not come into it.

Q. But the Italians form a very large part of the number required on your road ?—A. It was my idea that we ought to get Danes, Swedes and Norwegians.

Q. What is your experience of workmen for that class of work, what class is best ?—A. I think the best people for the C.P.R., are the Scandinavians, not because they are better workmen than the Italians, but if they get through their season's work they usually take up a piece of land and settle, whereas Italians come out here for gain and do not assimilate with the country.

Q. How long have you been of that opinion, Mr. Burns ?—A. I have studied this matter quite a bit, four or five years.

Q. How long since you first came to that conclusion ?—A. I think last year.

Q. Were you not of a different opinion even as long ago as last month, that you considered Italians the best for the railway ?—A. Italians are best in this way, they are the only class of labour we can employ in Canada who can live for a year on the wages they earn in six months.

Q. You are looking at it from your standpoint, not from the standpoint of the men at all. In the interest of the company which class of men do you consider the best ?—A. I should think the Scandinavians.

Q. Did you ever express an opinion that the Italians were the best ?—A. I may have, in some respects.

Q. In what respects ?—A. Well, for instance, at the present time, if we have Italians in the North-west there is no danger of their jumping their jobs and leaving us in the lurch.

4-5 EDWARD VII., A. 1905

Q. It is very important to have a large number of section men to depend upon ?—
A. Very important.

Q. Therefore, with that end in view, the Italians are the best employees?—A. Yes.

Q. And therefore you have a large number employed ?—A. Yes.

Q. A greater number than of other classes ?—A. About equal.

Q. Equal with what other class ?—A. No one class, but all classes together.

Q. About half Italians. Therefore did it not strike you that it would be a good stroke of policy to provide for a large number of Italians for 1904, so far as your work is concerned ?—A. I do not remember making any calculations on the subject.

Q. You were quite willing to allow the Grand Trunk Pacific what would be left, but you wanted first choice ?—A. I think we made a basis of what we want in Montreal but beyond that I do not make any calculations at all.

Q. Did Mr. Cordasco make any calculations ?—A. I do not know.

Q. Did he never tell you ?—A. I think he told me in December or January, he had about 1,000 men on his books.

Q. Did he not tell you he was bringing a large number to Montreal and wanted you to take some ?—A. No.

Q. He never asked you to take men from him ?—A. Yes he frequently wrote especially during this spring.

Q. What did he say ?—A. He wanted to get rid of his men.

Q. And you were leading him into trouble ?—A. Yes.

Q. Saying you were aware that he was bringing in a lot of men ?—A. I did not know he was bringing in any.

Q. Did he not tell you he was having a lot of men coming from Italy ?—A. I think he did mention that he had a lot of men, he did not tell me they were coming from Italy.

Q. Not at all ?—A. Never sir, I think. Not one man.

Q. You are quite clear about that ?—A. I am. I have no recollection of his saying about bringing any men from Italy.

Q. He wrote you on March 18, 1904, that letter did he not Mr. Burns ?—A. Yes, Your Honour.

Q. He was in trouble about you not taking men?—A. Yes, Your Honour.

He wrote you that letter on May 10, 1904 ?—A. Yes, I remember that letter distinctly, but I have no idea he ever brought them over.

Q. The letter is as follows:

‘G. E. BURNS, Esq.,

‘Special Agent, C.P.R.

‘MONTREAL, May 10, 1904.

Re INFORMATION.

‘DEAR SIR,—Arrived by the way of Chiasso, over 300 Italians and nearly 200 by New York. Sure will be a disgracefull for these poor emigrants with the old ones which they put up here all winter, and Italian Consul with his society are to be blamed and they should be crushed to peace.

‘Your servant,

‘A. CORDASCO.’

A. I would imagine that the Italian Society brought them out.

Q. That is why he wrote? You do not think he was trying to blame them for bringing these people out. You remember his going for that society?—A. I know he and the society did not pull.

Q. In fact he has been doing all in his power to injure that society?—A. I believe he has.

Q. Writing in the papers against that society?—A. I have heard of writings.

Q. A special supplement against that society?—A. I don't know anything about that.

SESSIONAL PAPER No. 36b.

Q. Never heard about that?—A. No.

Q. Then at that time you knew he had 300 arrived and 200 more coming?—A. Cordasco used to cover all trains with his men, and I did not know they were his men.

Q. He was at that time asking you to employ them?—A. If you can interpret that letter so.

Q. Did you assist him getting employment for them?—A. I did not assist at all.

Q. You remember that telegram being sent to Foley Brothers & Larson on May 5, 1904?—A. Yes, he spoke to me about that.

Q. And you approved of its being done?—A. That is his own telegram.

Q. I know. You see it is charged to you, you paid for it?—A. Yes. It does not cost me any thing.

Q. Would cost him though.—A. Yes, I quite understand that.

Q. It says: 'Understand you are in need of large number men for construction from Sudbury for C.P.R. Can supply you with two thousand experienced railway Italian navvies at moment's notice. Reference Canadian Pacific Railway.

'A. CORDASCO.

'Charge a-c G. E. Burns.'

Q. So that you were aware at that time that he could supply two thousand men. He could supply more than that 500 men in Montreal at that time?—A. I believed so.

Q. None hired?—A. I don't know.

Q. Where did they come from?—A. I don't know.

Q. Did you make inquiry?—A. No, I knew there was a large number.

Q. It would take some time to procure a large number from Italy and the United States would it not?—A. I don't know.

Q. They had to make some preparation?—A. I suppose they would require certain tables of steamship sailings if they were brought out.

Q. Exactly, did you inquire about that?—A. No.

Q. Did you not inquire how many you could depend upon getting?—A. I did make some inquiry, but I did not know the number. I spoke to Mr. Cordasco.

Q. He objected to others sending men to any other railway?—A. He objected to any company getting ahead of the C.P.R.

Q. He writes:—

'MONTREAL, May 9, 1904.

'G. E. BURNS, Esq.,

'Special Agent, C.P.R.,

Re INFORMATION.

'DEAR SIR,—The Canadian Northern Railway Company has sent on order *re* Mr. Waller, agent at 1887 Notre Dame street, for 200 labourers, and this hiring was going on from this morning and 200 Italians were hired to go to Winnipeg, leaving Montreal to-morrow morning. Wages \$1.50, fares \$12 to be deducted from first wages from each of them, and talking going on that 600 more Italians will be hired by them this week and each of them was charged \$2. Who is to blame, is only Cordasco that charges.

'Your servant,

'A. CORDASCO.

P.S.—Very sorry to see all the best and first-class Italian labourers taken away. A.C.'

Q. I suppose that was written by himself, he was sorry to see?—A. Your Honour, these letters came to my office. He was keeping me posted as to labour conditions. I think that was about the time of this agitation.

Q. No, May 6, 1904, the agitation was for want of bread?—A. What date.

Q. May 6, 1904.—A. When was the agitation for want of bread?

Q. About this time.—A. I wanted to get data as to the situation from Cordasco.

Q. When did you advise him about the situation of labour?—A. I think about the time this trouble occurred.

Q. Do you remember when?—A. Early in the spring.

Q. March?—A. Somewhere about the neighbourhood.

Q. He was in great trouble to see that other gentlemen were sending men away?—

A. The great trouble was that he was getting no orders from me.

Q. P.S. Very sorry to see all the best and first-class Italian labourers taken away?—A. He wanted to supply these to me, I suppose.

Q. Had he charge of all Italians in Montreal?—A. No.

Q. Why was he sorry to see these men despatched by anybody except Cordasco?—A. I consider that to mean that his men were dropping him and getting employment elsewhere and the C.P.R. was losing their services.

Q. I suppose that was the reason. On May 3, 1904, he writes you again:

‘Last night, May 2, 1904, fifty Italians hired by Mr. A. Manetti, Italian restaurant, 508 St. James street, were shipped to North Bay and each of them paid \$3 for commission, at rate of \$1.75 per day, to work on railroad for A. K. Macdonald.

‘Your servant,

‘A. CORDASCO.’

Q. Still advising you of what was going on?—A. No, sir.

Q. That is the position Mr. Cordasco was taking towards these men. That is not answered. On May 18, 1904, Mr. Cordasco wrote:

MONTREAL, May 18, 1904.

‘G. E. BURNS, Esq.,

‘Special Agent, C.P.R.,

‘DEAR SIR,—I am in trouble with some Italians and if any orders come you must take some of my labour, or otherwise I will be obliged to face big trouble with some of them.

‘I agree with you to supply your superintendent in Ontario division, or to any other with first class men. About that man in Latour, I believe he never worked in your company at all, and if he is a new man, will have my interpreters all mad and kindly to see that if any men be called to take my men before anybody else.

‘Oblige

‘A. CORDASCO.’

Q. Other men were taking his men?—A. I should infer that.

Q. And he wanted to have them?—A. I have them first.

Q. Mr. Cordasco wrote a very pathetic letter to Mr. J. Osborne on April 28, complaining that men were not taken from him. Amongst other things, he says:

‘I have supplied your company nearly three years, commencing from the time the strike was on, all over your lines, and then no one tried to supply one man over your tracks only Antonio Cordasco. At that time, during the strike, no Alberto Dini, no Candori, no Italian consul, but A. Cordasco supplied good many thousands. I do know that all my bad enemy making over my name and are accusing me of doing all they can in their power to do harm over me, but I am glad that not one of them can proof me to be guilty.

‘Even Italian lawyers are mad at me because I have cut off good many cases from their hands.’

A. That was written to me, it was not written to Mr. Osborne.

Q. It was addressed to G. E. Burns, Esq., and if necessary to be referred to J. Osborne, Esq. That was put in red ink after the original was sent to Osborne. This is Cordasco's handwriting?—A. The other is not.

Q. The other is the original?—A. Well, I do not know anything about it.

Q. There was one sent to you at the same time?—A. I have this in my possession. He would not correspond direct with any official, as far as I know.

Q. You do not know Cordasco. I see several letters to others?—A. In years gone by.

SESSIONAL PAPER No. 36b.

Q. You think he would not correspond with anybody else but you?—A. Not on the matter of Italian labour.

Q. Why do you think that?—A. Those were his instructions.

Q. You knew he was charging those labourers for obtaining work for them?—A. Yes, Your Honour.

Q. How much do you know was he charging?—A. I understand he was charging \$1 for registration and \$1 when they went out to work.

Q. That is all?—A. Yes.

Q. How much did he charge foremen?—A. I believe \$10, Your Honour.

Q. You know that?—A. Yes.

Q. How long did you know that?—A. I have known that for years.

Q. Do you not know that he was charging \$2 going out to work, after \$1 had been paid for registration?—A. No.

Q. Never heard that?—A. No, Your Honour.

Q. You do not seem to credit it?—A. Well, I do not think he was charging \$3. It was in my mind that he only charged \$2.

Q. Do you know that he charges \$4 now?—A. No, I never heard of it.

Q. Never heard of it, did you ask him?—A. Yes.

Q. When?—A. When the matters came out on different investigations.

Q. What do you mean by investigations?—A. There have been certain complaints made as to Italians being charged fees, and numbers of the men asked for a refund of these charges.

Q. You say that you only heard recently that he was charging the men \$3 for going out?—A. Only recently.

Q. How recently?—A. I think the first evidence I got as to the \$3 was when you were in his office the other day.

Q. You found out then, that from July 1, 1904, up to say the 16th he had sent out 200 men and had charged them \$3, in addition to the \$1 registration fee?—A. Yes. You informed me.

Q. The books showed that?—A. I do not see the books.

Q. \$10 at least for foreman as well?—A. Yes.

Q. You knew that he had been charging something all along while you were paying him for this work?—A. Yes, I paid him according to the agreement I had with him in 1902.

Q. And in April you made a new agreement to pay him \$1 for each man, provided he did not charge anything to any Italian?—A. Yes.

Q. Has he carried out that agreement to your knowledge?—A. Well from the evidence that I have before me now I do not think he has.

Q. I suppose he would have informed you at any time if you had asked?—A. I presume he would.

Q. You can rely on Cordasco's word?—A. I think so, Your Honour.

Q. Then why did you pay him?—A. My agreement was that he was not to charge C.P.R. employees for sending them to C.P.R. work, and I paid him that \$1.

Q. And now you find he has charged?—A. I have no definite information, but have ever reason to believe from the evidence adduced and what you personally assured me—

Q. Is there any reason why he should be paid anything for these men?—A. I have not paid him yet.

Q. Do you intend to?—A. That is a matter for consideration. We have not paid him anything for some months.

Q. What months?—A. April, May and June.

Q. Have you paid him anything for any service?—A. No, sir.

Q. Because you heard at that time that he was charging the Italians?—A. I think I heard some time in June.

Q. Why do you not pay the April account? How do you account for this delay, it was passed in May?—A. It has never been passed.

4-5 EDWARD VII., A. 1905

Q. Not by Mr. Skinner ?—A. I do not call that passing, when it passes my hands it is passed.

Q. But Mr. Cordasco has rendered the account in due course and your clerk has dated and initialled it ?—A. Yes, Your Honour.

Q. And the only reason you refuse to pay him is that he received money from Italians ?—A. Well that was one reason.

Q. Any other reason ?—A. The item was not satisfactory.

Q. Did you take means to verify it ?—A. I cannot say I did.

Q. Was the real reason that he was charging Italians and you did not want it made payable ?—A. Well that is one reason.

Q. Another reason ?—A. Well let me see the account for April, and I think, I can perhaps tell you. (The Commissioner hands him the account)—A. The delay in the first instance was, I think, because I got the account some time toward the end of May and the May account was delayed on account of some charges in it in connection with a law suit we had.

Q. He was charging for some items for a law suit against the company ?—A. Yes.

Q. Was he not entitled to them ?—A. I was in doubt.

Q. You struck them out and had the account made out again ?—A. Yes.

Q. That was passed by you ?—A. Yes.

Q. Was that the only account in which he charged \$1 for each man ?—A. That was the first account.

Q. You paid that account ?—A. No, sir.

Q. Did not pay it ?—A. No, sir.

Q. You have not paid that account ?—A. No, Your Honour.

Q. To whom are you going to pay it if not to Cordasco ?—A. I do not know that I shall pay it to any other if he does not get it.

Q. But these Italians had to pay ; after he agreed to do the work for nothing he charged them \$3 per man, will you give them relief ?—A. I will investigate the matter and whatever I decide to do I will carry out. I will do right as far as I know.

Q. Now, have you given the Italians from the States transportation to Montreal ?—A. Last year.

Q. This year or last year ?—A. Not this year. None at all.

Q. Last year you did ?—A. Yes.

Q. To all ?—A. Not all.

Q. Why ?—A. In the early part of the season they used to come in here themselves and pay the fare, but labour got scarcer and I had to advance the fare and take it out of the wages, and then when labour got still scarcer we used to advance the fare out of our own pockets. They were a different class of men who came then than in the beginning of the year.

Q. Then you think that Cordasco has broken faith with you ?—A. Well, as I said before, I want to investigate this matter thoroughly and come to a conclusion, and whatever conclusion I arrive at I will act accordingly.

Q. Is it not the same matter that Mr. Guertin was discharged for from the company's service ?—A. Mr. Guertin was a regular employee for the company, on regular salary, on the permanent staff.

Q. Does it make any difference whether a regular salary, or a regular sum for which a man works ?—A. It does so far as the C.P.R. is concerned. We have a permanent staff of permanent employees, and the company has all sorts of men engaged, but whether they are treated as agents I do not know. I have never regarded Cordasco as an employee of the company.

Q. At any rate here is a man, calling himself an agent for your company, who makes a solemn agreement not to charge Italians any thing at all. He breaks that contract and charges them double and treble ?—A. I have no evidence of that.

Q. You will only have to wait to get plenty evidence about Mr. Cordasco ?—

SESSIONAL PAPER No. 36b.

Well, I suppose then Mr. Cordasco will have to follow Mr. Guertin. If he disobeys orders he will have to take his medicine like any body else.

Q. Now you wrote to Mr. Timmerman on May 17, 1904. He is your general superintendent at Toronto?—A. Yes.

Q. In which you say:—

‘Under the present conditions, starting from this year, all Italians may be engaged through Cordasco’s office for the Canadian Pacific Railway without the payment of a single cent, but in the past, as indicated in Cordasco’s letter of April 29, he has not been out for his health, and I have no doubt has exacted his fee as is usual in such cases, not only in Montreal, but all over the country, as probably you are aware.’

Q. Is that correct?—A. Yes, I believe that is correct.

Q. ‘Starting from this year’?—A. Yes.

Q. ‘All Italians may be engaged through Cordasco without the payment of a single cent,’ that was your agreement?—A. Yes, that was the agreement.

Q. Then are you aware that he was employing men in the United States this spring for the company?—A. No.

Q. That the Stabili Company were?—A. He had no connection with that whatever.

Q. Did he not say that he was having a number of men coming from the States?—A. Yes, he told me a number of men were coming, but he did not tell me they would all come in early.

Q. Last September you asked him to send for men to the States for you?—A. I believe so, we were very short of men.

Q. These are the men given transportation at the time?—A. Yes.

Q. He had agents there picking these men out?—A. Yes.

Q. Do you know whether he had any agents in Italy?—A. No.

Q. Do you remember a man named Marcucci being sent to Italy, you did not know that man?—A. No.

Q. You never heard his name?—A. No.

Q. Do you know of Mr. Magna who went to the States for you?—A. Yes.

Q. Does he belong to Montreal?—A. There are two Magna’s in Montreal, I do now know which it is.

Q. D. Magna?—A. One is called M. and the other Dominico Magna.

Q. Then there was one Leto?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Also an agent?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. An agent sent by Cordasco to the States?—A. These men have connections down there and they pick out forces of men, they are allowed expenses, railway fare and \$2 or \$3 per day.

Q. You have always stated that Mr. Cordasco was labour agent for the C.P.R.?—A. I have said that he was sole agent to hire Italians.

Q. Advertisements have been issued in every direction?—A. I have seen his advertisements.

Q. That he is the only authorized agent to handle men for the C.P.R.?—A. Yes.

Q. Then with reference to Mr. Cordasco’s accounts, do you audit them yourself?—A. Yes.

Q. Always?—A. Yes, I do not go into all details but scan them over, and if correct initial.

Q. Who goes into the details?—A. Mr. Skinner and Mr. Lancey.

Q. You heard Mr. Skinner’s evidence yesterday with reference to the payment of these supplies and the charges?—A. Yes.

Q. Did you ever consider his accounts with reference to provisions to Italians and Chinese?—A. Yes.

Q. Did you ever go into them?—A. In regard to that question I would just like to correct an impression that Your Honour seems to have in reference to that fact.

To go into the thing thoroughly we will have to start in 1901, when we shipped large numbers of men during the strike, I used to buy provisions myself from a retail firm of grocers, and I found that when shipping two or three gangs every day to different parts of the line, it necessitated the employment of a couple of my men, and even more handling the supplies. When the strike was over things got quieted down a bit, and in the following year I made a proposition to Cordasco and asked him to undertake to feed all Italians who went, selling them the necessary food, &c.

Q. Was not that included in his day's work?—A. He did not have any particular kind of duties, looked to see that they had bread and such things as bologna sausages, &c. He agreed to do that provided I saw that his bills were collected. Now, Your Honour yesterday seemed to think, from Mr. Skinner's evidence, that the Canadian Pacific Railway bought these supplies, when as a matter of fact all the Canadian Pacific Railway has to do is to see that the bills are correct and to see that the amounts are collected at the other end of the line, and that Mr. Cordasco is reimbursed. Now, I might say that I considered I was bound to see that these men were not imposed upon. Some time ago I made a personal inspection of the food which went on board and I discovered a large gang going out, about two or three years ago, I discovered a large consignment of bread, probably 400 or 500 loaves, baked by several bakeries, which were mouldy, and I rejected the whole lot and wired Ottawa to supply fresh bread there.

Q. Who supplied these?—A. I do not know.

Q. Last year?—A. Two years ago. After that I gave instructions that all supplies should be inspected, and I know that from that date every shipment is as represented and that all these provisions are of good material and there is no fault to find with them. Now, in regard to the prices, in checking these accounts, roughly speaking, I placed the price on the cost of bread to arrive at a definite figure on three meals a day. In addition to that, if you will observe the accounts, Your Honour, you will find these prices specifically mentioned, and if you compare these prices with any retail prices at any grocery and any bakery, you will find there is not very much discrepancy. For instance take bread, the 6 pound loaf he charged 17 cents for, he had charged 14 cents, but there has been a rise in prices and they are now 17 cents. If you go down town they will charge you 8 cents for a small loaf, so he made 1 cent on that. As regards sardines; I went into the matter once, I think last year. I picked out a tin from a case in a car and put it in my pocket. I went to my office and sent one of my men down town to Hudon, Hebert & Co., wholesale grocers, to enquire as to the prices of these sardines, and I got an answer back and found that Cordasco was charging too much (12 cents) and knew from my own household expenses that the best sardines only cost 13 cents each, or two for a quarter. I spoke to Cordasco, he admitted having charged too much, and he put the price at 10 cents, which gave still a good margin. I do not know what he charged, I did not care. He was looking after the matter, and if he was not giving away the goods for nothing it would simply mean that he had a good business contract and the cost of the goods supplied by him to the Canadian Pacific Railway I had nothing to do with, except to go over his accounts and to see that the retail prices at the grocery stores were not overstepped. I did not think there would be much overcharge, as in handling the stuff Cordasco required two or three men. Because we had three or four shipments a day.

Q. Now, that is your explanation?—A. Yes.

Q. You paid Cordasco \$5 per day during the time he is employed in any work for the Canadian Pacific Railway?—A. Yes.

Q. The work consisted of getting provisions for these men when necessary?—A. That is separate.

Q. The work consists of doing this?—A. He supplies the men.

Q. And you pay him \$5 for that work?—A. He is paid \$5 for drumming up and shipping these Italians.

Q. He charges \$5 for supplying provisions?—A. I have noticed in the accounts.

SESSIONAL PAPER No. 36b.

Q. I suppose they are correct. Mr. Cordasco would not make a wrong account. If you will look over the accounts, there are a great many details of the sort. Supposing, now, that instead of Cordasco getting the provisions you get them, would you charge a profit?—A. None whatever.

Q. He is in your position now; he gets paid for that work?—A. I do not understand it that way.

Q. His accounts show that way?—A. I do not like to argue.

Q. Look at the accounts; there is no argument. Look at the accounts, that is what governs you and him?—A. We certainly refused.

Q. You pay him \$5 for supplying these provisions and he makes a profit for doing this?—A. Yes.

Q. That is, he not only gets \$5, but charges a profit on everything he buys?—A. Not to the Canadian Pacific Railway.

Q. It is far worse if it is not the Canadian Pacific Railway; it is against these unfortunate Italians who do not know anything about prices?—A. I do not know if the prices are not excessive.

Q. There should not be one cent profit if Cordasco was paid for the service?—A. That is one way of looking at it.

Q. That is the honest way; why should a man pay 15c. for a box of sardines costing 3c.?—A. I always regarded that as his prerogative.

Q. You are quite willing that these Italians should pay double prices for these things?—A. He had a right to some profit.

Q. Why, when you paid him for his services?—A. I paid him \$5 for drumming up men and shipping them, and lots of other work.

Q. And also for providing food?—A. I never made that stipulation.

Q. Look at this account; you paid him for that work?—A. And handling the men.

Q. We are not joking here; there is no use talking for nothing?—A. I wish no disrespect to Your Honour; I give my evidence as—

Q. That is as Cordasco looks at the matter?—A. I am just giving facts.

Q. There is an account for \$152. How much did he actually pay; the statement is added there?—A. \$94.72.

Q. Now, then, supposing we pass from that to the Chinese; the Canadian Pacific Railway pay for the provisions for the Chinese out of their own pocket, is not that so?—A. Yes.

Q. The provisions are charged against the Chinese on the same principle?—A. Yes.

Q. You pay him \$5 per day for providing these provisions; look up the amount if you are not sure?—A. That is—

Q. Passed that way?—A. Yes.

Q. How many hundred dollars during the year has Mr. Cordasco made in this manner?—A. I would like to look over the accounts for information.

Q. You paid him \$5 a day and he makes a profit on everything, as much as 150 per cent on little sardine boxes.

Q. In March he charges for provisions to Chinese, on the 5th, services rendered?—A. He had two or three claims to inquire into that day, that made \$2 or \$3.

Q. I suppose that did not take him more than 24 hours?—A. No.

Q. You had his exclusive services for a full day for \$5?—A. Yes.

Q. If he was less than a day he was only paid in proportion?—A. Yes.

Q. Therefore, according to your understanding, you should have made him supply that food to the Chinese at exactly what it cost?—A. Undoubtedly.

Q. You should have done it yourself; he only bought your supplies?—A. He is an outsider.

Q. He gets \$5 a day for devoting his time to that?—A. I never looked upon it in that way, Your Honour.

Q. Why did you not? Does anybody share with Cordasco in this profit?—A. No, sir, not to my knowledge.

Q. Quite sure of that?—A. Yes.

Q. Now do you share with him?—A. Not one cent directly or indirectly.

Q. Has he made any presents to you within the last year?—A. Not of any value.

Q. What were they?—A. I mean to say that at Christmas time and I think at Easter, I got a few little things, little Italian delicacies; they did not amount to anything.

Q. Nothing else?—A. No.

Q. No money ever passed between you?—A. No.

Q. Quite sure?—A. No, nor any of my employees.

Q. I did not suppose any employees would, Mr. Skinner, nor any other, but your name has been suggested?—A. I have heard it, Your Honour; I have my friends, but also many enemies.

Q. What did they say?—A. That my intercourse with Cordasco would probably lead to something being said about me. I have a good many enemies in this town and friends, too.

Q. Yes?—A. I have always replied to these critics that it made no difference to me as long as I did what was right by the company.

Q. How long ago was this?—A. Within a year.

Q. Have these insinuations been continued since?—A. I believe so.

Q. They were against you and him?—I took them for me.

Q. And you swear on your oath that you have never received any share of any profit or any sum of money in connection with any Italian labour?—A. I do, Your Honour, if Cordasco has given me anything it is very trifling indeed, and I think I have reciprocated in kind.

Q. These friends referred to your intercourse with him at home?—A. My business relations.

Q. Only business relations?—A. Only.

Q. You go around together?—A. Last year I saw him every day when we had shipments, but this year it was different.

Q. These statements did not affect Mr. Skinner?—A. No, they only date since the first of the year.

Q. I may say that no one suggested the name of Mr. Skinner to me. I am perfectly satisfied that Mr. Skinner is above such charges as made against you, Mr. Burns?—A. I hope Your Honour does not believe it.

Q. I have heard no evidence to support it, whatever the circumstances are that is a different thing.

Adjourned until 2 p.m.

Meeting at 2 p.m., June 22, 1904, at Court House, Montreal.

Mr. Burns re-examined.

By the Commissioner :

Q. Has Mr. Cordasco collected the wages of the men at various times from the Canadian Pacific Railway?—A. I believe he has on a few occasions, not to any great extent as far as I know.

Q. On orders from the men?—A. Always payment would be made by cheque.

Q. Do you know as a matter of knowledge that these were under orders from the men?—A. That is the rule.

Q. Do you know how he came to receive orders?—A. I do not know, I only knew of a few cases.

SESSIONAL PAPER No. 36b.

Q. You do not know personally to what extent he collected ?—A. No.

Q. Not in your office ?—A. Through the paymaster's office.

Q. That is your knowledge ?—Yes.

Q. You stated that you were aware that Mr. Cordasco was charging \$3 only last week ?—A. I think it was last week.

Q. You never heard of it before ? A. I had heard that it had been done and I asked him if it was so.

Q. Who told you he had been doing it, do you know ?—A. Well, I will not be positive. I think I had some identifications where the question came up, and I think it was denied at the time. There was really no evidence to show that money had been paid and I took it for granted that only \$2 were paid.

Q. Have you the accounts for 1903 with Cordasco ?—A. I have.

Q. Will you produce them ?—A. Yes.

Q. Will you kindly go over these accounts and find out what he has charged for provisions to Chinese and Italians and for his services ?—A. I will, Your Honour.

FILIPPO D'ALLESANDRO being sworn—(by interpreter).

By Mr. Mowat :

Q. Were you one of Taliano's gang ?—A. No, sir, Pompeo Bianco's gang.

Q. Did you apply to Cordasco for employment, and how much did you pay ?—A. Yes, I paid him \$1, he told me I would have to pay him \$2 more to get work.

Q. When was this ?—A. At the beginning of December last; he told me I would get some work in the beginning of March.

Q. Did you get work in March ?—A. No, I only worked one day, last Thursday.

Q. You have not got regular employment ?—A. No.

Q. How long have you been in this country ?—A. 15 or 16 months, a year last April.

Q. Did you ever pay him more than \$1 ?—A. Last year I paid \$3.

Q. And got a job ?—A. Yes.

NICOLA FANDINO being sworn (through interpreter).

By Mr. Mowat :

Q. Were you in Pompeo Bianco's gang ?—A. Yes.

Q. How long have you been in Canada ?—A. Three years.

Q. Did you apply to Cordasco for work ?—A. Yes, I went last year.

Q. This year and last year ?—A. Yes.

Q. How much did you pay this year ?—A. \$1.

Q. Is that all ?—A. \$1 in December last.

Q. Was that all you paid ?—A. Yes.

Q. Were you promised work ?—A. Yes.

Q. When ?—A. March 1.

Q. Did you get work ?—A. There was no work.

NICOLA SPIDIGLIACCI being sworn (through interpreter).

By Mr. Mowat :

Q. Were you in Bianco's gang ?—A. No; in Salvatore Mollo's.

Q. Did you apply to Cordasco for work ?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. When ?—A. I went in February last. He told me I would go to work in March.

Q. Was any money demanded from you ?—A. Yes.

Q. How much?—A. I paid \$1 in February last. He took my name down in February, and he told me in three weeks to bring him \$2 more and he would send me to work.

Q. You did pay that, when?—A. Three weeks ago.

Q. In July?—A. Yes; beginning of July.

Q. Have you obtained work?—A. No, sir.

Q. How long have you been in this country?—A. Since last February.

Q. Just came in February?—A. Yes, from States.

Q. How long in the States?—A. About one year and a half.

By the Commissioner:

Q. What part of the States?—A. Boston and Vermont.

Q. Did you belong to any gang in Vermont or Boston?—A. Yes.

Q. Who was foreman?—A. Gianni.

Q. Did he write to Cordasco for work for you?—A. No.

MICHELE ORCIANO being sworn. (Through interpreter.)

By Mr. Mowat:

Q. To whose gang did you belong?—A. Salvatore Mollo's.

Q. When did you come to this country?—A. Two years ago.

Q. Did you apply to Cordasco for work?—A. Yes, last year.

Q. When?—A. I came to Montreal in November last.

Q. You went to see Cordasco at that time?—A. Yes.

Q. Was any money demanded?—A. Yes, I paid \$1.

Q. Ever pay any more?—A. Yes, I paid \$2 three weeks ago.

Q. You were promised work when you paid that?—A. Yes, he said come to-morrow, after to-morrow.

Q. Did you go back repeatedly for work?—A. All the time I was told to go away. that there was no work.

Q. After paying the \$2?—A. Yes, he got \$2 from every one in our gang.

By the Commissioner:

Q. I suppose they paid \$1 each before this?—A. Yes.

RAFFAELE CACARABELLI, being sworn. (Through interpreter.)

By Mr. Mowat:

Q. Were you in Mollo's gang?—A. Yes.

Q. You applied to Cordasco for work?—A. Yes.

Q. When did you go to him?—A. In January, I paid him \$1.

Q. Did you pay him any more?—A. Yes, \$2 on the 3rd of this month.

Q. Did he promise you work?—A. When I went he would say come to-morrow morning, and in the morning he would say come to-night at five o'clock.

Q. He mentioned the hour when you were to get work?—A. Yes.

Q. After you paid the \$2?—A. Yes.

Q. Did you get any work?—A. No.

Q. When did you come to this country?—A. Sixteen months ago.

Q. From Italy?—A. From London.

MARTINO CRESCENZO being sworn. (Through interpreter.)

By Mr. Mowat:

Q. Were you in Mollo's gang?—A. Yes.

Q. Did you apply to Cordasco for work?—A. Yes.

Q. When?—A. In January last.

Q. Was any money demanded from you?—A. Yes, I paid him \$1.

SESSIONAL PAPER No. 36b.

- Q. When did you go to Cordasco again after that?—A. Once in March and April.
 Q. Was more money demanded after that?—A. Yes, we paid about \$15 or \$16.
 It was on a Sunday, and he said you will go to work to-morrow morning.
 Q. Did you go the next morning?—A. Yes, sir.
 Q. What was the answer?—A. Wait two days more.
 Q. Did you go back again?—A. Yes.
 Q. What happened?—A. He said there will be some work to-morrow morning sure.
 Q. Did you go back frequently?—A. All the time.
 Q. Never got the job promised?—A. No.
 Q. When did you arrive from Italy?—A. One year ago.

CONSTANZO LOMBARDI being sworn. (Through interpreter.)

By Mr. Mowat:

- Q. Were you in Mollo's gang?—A. Yes, Salvatore Mollo.
 Q. Did you apply to Cordasco for work?—A. Yes.
 Q. When?—A. I paid him \$1 in January.
 Q. Have you paid him a further sum?—A. Yes, I paid \$2 more.
 Q. When?—A. On the 3rd July.
 Q. Did Cordasco, in consideration of that sum, promise you a job?—A. Yes.
 Q. What was the result?—A. He put me off from day to day, saying to-morrow morning you will go to work. I went to North Bay in order to obtain work, and was obliged to come back. I paid \$16.80 to go to North Bay and back.

TO THE COMMISSIONER.—I was promised work there, but did not get any, and was obliged to come back, because it was costing us 60 cents a day for board.

GIOVANNI MORILLO being sworn. (Through interpreter.)

By Mr. Mowat:

- Q. When did you go to Cordasco for work?—A. I worked last year, and when I came back I went there with Salvatore Mollo and we paid \$1 each.
 Q. Did you also pay \$2 further?—A. I paid altogether \$3 for myself, \$3 for one of my sons, and \$3 for another boy coming from Italy; \$9 for the gang.
 Q. When did you pay this \$9, what date exactly?—A. I paid in February and in March I gave him \$2 more.
 Q. And you started work?—A. No, we went back repeatedly looking for a job every day.
 Q. What answer?—A. If you do not go out of the office, I will kick you out.

By the Commissioner:

- Q. When did you come from Italy?—A. Nearly three years ago.
 Q. You say you paid \$3 for a boy coming from Italy, when did he come?—A. He arrived in March.
 Q. Where from?—A. From Naples.
 Q. What is his name?—A. Constantino.
 Q. You paid for another boy that came from Italy?—A. Yes, my son.
 Q. You paid his passage?—A. Yes.
 Q. How much did you send him?—A. I do not know how much, I did not take notice, \$36 or \$37, I think.
 Q. Through what agency did you send the money?—A. I do not know.

IMPERATO LAZZARO, being sworn. (Through interpreter).

By Mr. Mowat :

Q. You belong to Mollo's gang?—A. Yes.

Q. How old are you, and from what part of Italy did you come?—A. 18 years of age; from the Marches, Italy.

Q. When?—A. Six months ago.

Q. What month?—A. In January.

Q. By Quebec or Boston?—A. Came straight from Italy to Montreal.

Q. By what boat?—A. I do not remember.

Q. How did you come here, who sent you out?—A. A friend of mine.

Q. How did you come to go to Cordasco's?—A. I met Mollo and went to Cordasco's.

Q. Did you pay any money in advance to Cordasco?—A. I paid Pellegrini \$1 and Mollo \$1.

Q. How much of this money went to Cordasco?—A. \$1 to Pellegrini to give to Cordasco, and \$1 to Mollo and \$1 to Cordasco.

Q. \$3 altogether?—A. Yes.

Q. When?—A. April last \$1, other \$2 20 days ago.

Q. In July?—A. Yes.

Q. Were you given work?—A. No, nothing but promises.

Q. Did you ask the money back?—A. Yes, I asked him, but he refused to give back the money.

FUERELLO CARMINA, being sworn. (Through interpreter).

By Mr. Mowat :

Q. Have you paid any money to Cordasco for work?—A. Yes, I paid \$1 in middle January to him, and paid him \$2 about 15 days ago.

Q. What did he tell you?—A. He told me : you will go to work this week.

Q. Did you get any work?—A. No.

By the Commissioner :

Q. How long have you been in Canada?—A. 15 months.

By Mr. Mowat :

Q. Did you ask your money back?—A. I went there, but he refused to give it back.

PIETRO BAZZANI, being sworn. (Through interpreter).

By Mr. Mowat :

Q. You are a foreman?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. How long have you been in Canada?—A. Six years, I have been in Nova Scotia.

Q. Did you come from Nova Scotia here?—A. Yes.

Q. Did you go to Cordasco and offer your services?—A. I went to Cordasco and brought 19 men from Nova Scotia.

Q. Did he demand money?—A. I gave him money myself.

Q. For yourself?—A. \$10 for myself and \$1 for each of the men, \$19.

Q. When was that?—A. I sent the money from Nova Scotia on February 3.

Q. Did you ever get work?—A. Never.

Q. Never sent out?—A. Never sent out, he promised to give me a chance.

SESSIONAL PAPER No. 36b.

Q. Do you keep your men around here?—A. My men are in Nova Scotia. They paid \$1 each and were registered.

Q. You could have got them here at any time you wanted, could you not, if he had offered you work?—A. He never gave me a chance.

Q. Did he ask you for any more money?—A. He said: 'I want some more money.'

Q. Did you give him any more?—A. No; I gave him \$1 each for the men.

Q. You did not give him \$5?—A. \$5 in Nova Scotia.

Q. \$10 in two payments?—A. Yes, I spent money here for board and got no work and lost all summer waiting for him. I called on him several times.

Q. What did he say?—A. Well, the first chance I have I will call you.

Q. When was this?—A. A month and a half ago.

Q. You never heard anything from him?—A. Nothing at all.

Q. Where did you work in Nova Scotia?—A. For the Dominion Iron and Steel Company.

VINCENZO MANCINI, being sworn.

By Mr. Mowat:

Q. You are a foreman?—A. Yes.

Q. For Cordasco?—A. Yes.

Q. How much did you pay him?—A. \$10 for myself.

Q. When was that?—A. I paid about \$20 to \$21 for the men and \$10 for myself.

Q. When was that?—A. The end of February or beginning of March.

Q. He promised you work?—A. Yes, he told me he would send me to work for the Canadian Pacific Railway.

Q. Did you go back to Cordasco?—A. Yes.

Q. The same answer?—A. He refused to give me the money.

Q. He did not send you to work?—A. No.

By the Commissoiner:

Q. How long have you been here?—A. About seven years.

Q. Lived here during the winter?—A. Yes, I lived in Montréal.

ACHILLO CAMPOBIANCO, being sworn. (By interpreter.)

By Mr. Mowat:

Q. What gang do you belong to?—A. To Mancini's gang.

Q. Did you pay Cordasco any money?—A. I paid \$1. I gave \$1 to my foreman, Mancini, and he gave it to Cordasco.

Q. Did you get any work?—A. No.

ADOLPHE MIELE, being sworn.

By Mr. Mowat:

Q. Are you a foreman?—A. Yes.

Q. How long have you been in Canada?—A. Six years.

Q. When did you apply to Cordasco for work?—A. On the 28th January.

Q. Did he get any money from you?—A. Yes.

Q. How much?—A. \$10.

Q. For your gang as well?—A. Yes.

Q. How many?—A. 68.

Q. Did you pay \$68?—A. Yes, \$68.

Q. When were you to get work?—A. He promised me every day, never told me when.

Q. Did you ever pay any more money?—A. No.

Q. Did the men pay any more?—A. No.

Q. Have you ever been able to get any work from him?—A. No.

Q. Can you get hold of your men when wanted?—A. Yes, sir.

ANTONIO GIACCI, being sworn.

By the Commissoiner:

Q. You are a foreman?—A. Yes.

Q. Where you employed last year?—A. Yes.

Q. By Cordasco?—A. Yes.

Q. What time last year?—A. I mean last spring, two years ago.

Q. Did you apply for work this spring? When did you apply for work?—A. In January.

Q. To Cordasco?—A. Yes.

Q. Did you pay him anything?—A. Yes.

Q. How much?—A. \$10.

Q. Had you any men with you?—A. I had a gang of men with me; I settled for them with Cordasco.

Q. What had you to pay him?—A. Altogether \$98 for 98 men.

Q. When was that?—A. From 4th January up.

Q. To what time?—A. About the last of March or April.

Q. How many men had you, 98?—A. Yes, I had two gangs, one for me and one for my brother.

Q. How much did your brother pay?—A. The same as I did.

Q. How much?—A. \$10.

Q. There are two foremen for 98 men?—A. Yes.

Q. Did you get work?—A. Not yet.

Q. Have you applied for work?—A. Sure.

Q. Have you asked for the money back?—A. Yes.

Q. Did you get it?—A. No.

Q. Why?—A. He promised to send me out April 1st or after that date.

Q. That date has not come yet?—A. Not yet.

Q. Did your poor men get their money back?—A. Yes, all of them.

Q. Who paid them back?—A. I paid, gave money back to men, not \$98.

Q. How much?—A. I had paid \$182 for 91 men, or \$2 per man, and I got that back from Cordasco and gave it to the men.

Q. You paid \$2 each to the men?—A. Yes.

Q. You paid more than that?—A. Yes, \$3, but \$1 went for registration.

Q. You had at first paid \$98 to Cordasco for 98 men; you did not get that back?—

A. No, sir.

Q. None of these men got that back?—A. No.

Q. Where are these men now?—A. They are all out in the country at work.

Q. Who sent them out?—A. No one; they went by themselves.

Q. Cordasco did not send them out?—A. No. The men are working, but no thanks to Cordasco.

Q. You did not get your \$10 back?—A. But he has promised to give it back.

ANTONIO MANZELLI, being sworn. (Through interpreter.)

By Mr. Mowat:

Q. Whose gang do you belong to?—A. Raffaele Taliano.

SESSIONAL PAPER No. 36b.

Q. Did you pay Cordasco any money?—A. Yes, \$1.

Q. Did you get any work?—A. No, I went to the office and asked for a job and he put me out.

Q. How long have you been in the country?—A. Over two years.

GIOVANNI BIANCO, being sworn. (Through interpreter.)

By Mr. Mowat :

Q. You belong to Raffaele Taliano's gang?—A. Yes.

Q. Did you pay any money?—A. Yes, \$3.

Q. When?—A. \$1 in the beginning of January and \$2 15 days ago.

Q. Have you got any work?—A. Have been promised work, but have none yet.

Q. Did you ask for your money back?—A. Yes, I asked but Cordasco refused to give it back.

GIUSEPPE BIANCO, being sworn. (Through interpreter.)

By Mr. Mowat :

Q. Whose gang?—A. Raffaele Taliano's gang.

Q. Did you pay anything to Cordasco?—A. I paid Cordasco \$1 in December last and \$2 15 days ago.

Q. Did you ask for your money back?—A. Yes, and he refused.

Q. Did Cordasco get you any job?—A. No.

FRANCESCO COTTOIO being sworn. (Through interpreter.)

By Mr. Mowat :

I belong to Taliano's gang. I paid Cordasco \$1 in January and \$2., 15 days ago. Did not get any work. Have been in the country since last year.

NICOLA DANILLO, being sworn. (Through interpreter.)

By Mr. Mowat :

I belong to Taliano's gang. I paid Cordasco \$1 in December and \$2., 15 days ago. Asked for a job but got none. I asked for my money back, and he refused to give it.

STEPHANO LETO, being sworn.

By the Commissioner :

Q. How many men did you bring over from New York?—A. Fifty men; they came by themselves.

Q. Fifty men only?—A. Yes

Q. What do you mean by saying that you brought 50 men over when you brought over 100?—A. 100 divided under two foremen.

Q. When did you bring them over?—A. A month and a half or two months ago.

Q. Where from?—A. From New York.

Q. How much did they pay?—A. We paid \$1 each.

Q. To whom?—A. To Cordasco.

Q. When?—A. In March.

Q. Have you got employment?—A. Not yet.

Q. Did you pay any more money?—A. No.

Q. You got \$1 from each of the men in New York?—A. No, sir.

4-5 EDWARD VII., A. 1905

Q. I say you got \$1 from each of the men in New York?—A. Yes, I took \$1 to send the money here.

Q. Were they promised work on the Canadian Pacific Railway?—A. Yes, on the Canadian Pacific Railway.

Q. On payment of \$2 for each?—A. We did not pay it.

Q. Was not that the understanding?—A. Yes.

Q. Did they ever receive any work?—A. No.

Q. Did you take Cordasco's cards with you to New York?—A. No.

Q. Did you see some of the men with Cordasco's cards?—A. No.

Q. How long have you been in New York?—A. Ten years.

Q. Have you ever acted for Cordasco in New York?—A. Never.

NICOLA GIOIA, being sworn. (Through interpreter.)

I belong to Pellegrini's gang. I paid \$1 to Cordasco in December last for a job. I got no work. I am 17 years of age. I have been in Montreal for the last 15 months. I am from Naples. I arrived here on June 15 last year.

PIETRO PALMIERO, being sworn. (By interpreter.)

I belong to Bazzanni's gang. I paid Cordasco \$2 in November last. Last year I was in the country working for the Canadian Pacific Railway, and I came here because I was told they had a job here for me.

Q. Did you get any work?—A. No. Did not get my money back. I paid \$3 more on the 9th of this month. He said he would give me a job. Here is the receipt for the money.

Mr. INTERNOSCIA.—If your Lordship will permit, I will ask Mr. Burns to come into the box one minute.

The COMMISSIONER.—Very well, Mr. Burns.

Mr. BURNS re-examined.

By Mr. Internoscia:

Q. Mr. Burns, you stated in answer to His Lordship that you had no knowledge that Mr. Cordasco was charging \$3 for the men. Do you remember if Mr. Candori here ever spoke to you of this?—A. I remember one particular case, yes.

Q. That is the one I refer to?—A. I do not know if I misunderstood, I only heard it, Your Lordship, later. I have heard it before and went down. Mr. Candori came to my office with an Italian, who told me he paid this \$3. We went down to Cordasco's office, and held an investigation, and my recollection is that as such an amount did not appear in the books both Ganna and Cordasco denied having received it.

Q. When was that, what month?—A. I cannot remember, probably two months ago.

Q. Do you remember that Mr. Candori spoke to you several times about this subject?—A. I remember his telling me about \$2 being charged, but not more; the \$3 I do not remember.

Q. Do you remember if Mr. McNicoll, of the Canadian Pacific Railway, showed you a letter written by our society on March 26, 1903, wherein appears this paragraph:

'We suppose it never came to your knowledge that certain people possibly authorized to deal with your company engage Italian labourers to work on your roads, only on payment of a commission of \$3 each, and refuse to engage those who cannot afford to pay such a commission. Every day at the Italian Consulate General and at our office complaints of that kind are made. We wish to stop such an abuse of charging \$3 or more to poor men, whose children are perhaps starving.'

SESSIONAL PAPER No. 36b.

Q. You remember if Mr. McNicoll showed you that letter,—it is dated March 26, 1903,—or will you please correct your statement to that extent?—A. I think I made some inquiry at the time, and reported that only \$2 was charged; that was my impression.

By the Commissioner:

Q. It was understood that the amount of provisions supplied by Mr. Cordasco should be deducted from the first month's wages of the men?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. That sum would be paid to Mr. Cordasco in his monthly account?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Have you gone over the statement for the last year to see what is the total amount charged for provisions last year, 1903?—A. I have taken all of 1903 and 1904 to date.

Q. Now, from the beginning of 1903 to June, 1904, how much does it amount to?—A. \$6,453.41.

Q. Would that be paid by Italians only, or by Italians and Chinese?—A. This would be by Italians and Chinese. The latter do not amount to a great deal.

Q. Have you gone over the profits that were charged on these provisions by Cordasco?—A. As far as I could.

Q. And what can you give as profit?—A. I can only work out the last three items.

Q. You have not worked out the whole?—A. There is no data.

Q. You take the prices there?—A. I compute the profit of the last three items.

Q. That would apply pro rata to the whole amount?—A. I suppose so.

Q. What would be the percentage?—A. About 63 per cent.

Q. What would that amount to on the whole?—A. About \$3,600 or more.

Q. Nearly \$4,000?—A. \$3,800; I will go over it again.

ANTONIO CORDASCO being sworn.

By the Commissioner:

Q. What business are you engaged in?—A. I am a labour agent, ship Italian money, and sell some steamship tickets.

Q. Have you a bank?—A. Just for the use of Italians, shipping money to Italy. I do not receive money on deposit.

Q. How many years have you acted as labour agent?—A. About six or seven years, I guess.

Q. For Italian immigrants altogether?—A. For everybody.

Q. Have you employed any other classes of immigrants besides Italians?—A. Yes. Some years ago I engaged French, English, Scotch and Irish; any kind.

Q. For the last two years?—A. All Italians.

Q. During the last four years?—A. It is a little over three.

Q. For three years have dealt exclusively with Italians?—A. Yes.

Q. You claim to be sole agent for the Canadian Pacific Railway for the employment of Italians?—A. I put that in the papers, and did not find anybody to interfere.

Q. You claim to be sole agent?—A. You see I was employing.

Q. Are you sole agent for the Canadian Pacific Railway?—A. As far as I see nobody else is.

Q. Were you employed as sole agent?—A. I do not know if—

Q. You must answer my question, are you sole agent for the Canadian Pacific Railway?—A. Yes, I am.

Q. Why did you not answer at first? How long have you been sole agent for the Canadian Pacific Railway?—A. About three years.

Q. What was your engagement?—A. To hire Italian labour.

Q. What remuneration were you to receive?—A. At the beginning, before the strike, I received nothing at all. I supplied two or three gangs.

Q. For nothing?—A. Not a cent.

Q. Who paid you?—A. I charged the men \$2 each.

Q. That was in 1901?—A. Yes, May 27.

Q. Then, when did you commence to work for money?—A. When the work commenced they wanted labour; they offered good wages, and they came over to see me.

Q. Who were they?—A. Mr. McKay and Mr. Garden.

Q. Who else?—A. And Mr. Burns.

Q. These three gentlemen came to see you?—A. Yes, that is all I can remember.

Q. What was the agreement arrived at between you?—A. They asked if I had any Italian labour to supply to the Canadian Pacific Railway.

Q. How many?—A. In the beginning 100 or 500, whatever I could get.

Q. When was this?—A. On the beginning of the strike.

Q. In May, 1901?—A. In June Garden came to see if I could supply some labourers for the Canadian Pacific Railway.

Q. What did he offer?—A. At that time he offered nothing.

Q. When did he offer anything?—A. As soon as the strike began.

Q. In July?—A. I think so.

Q. What did he offer then?—A. One dollar for each man I could supply.

Q. One dollar for each man?—A. Yes.

Q. How many men did you supply then?—A. During that year of the strike?

Q. During the strike?—A. I might say between 2,000 or more.

Q. Where did you get them?—A. I picked up what I could get in Canada, and when I could get no more here I wrote for some.

Q. Where?—A. I think I wrote to New York.

Q. No where else?—A. I wrote to Boston, but did not get any there.

Q. Anywhere else?—A. That is all; I wrote New York, Boston and Portland.

Q. Did you send any men down there to look for men?—A. I think so.

Q. How many did you send over to the States during that time?—A. Let me see; I sent four, five or perhaps six.

Q. They went to different parts of the States?—A. I sent them to New York, and now I remember I sent men to Philadelphia and to Buffalo; that just comes to my mind.

Q. I thought you had.—A. That is all.

Q. Then, how long did that arrangement continue?—A. That went on until the strike was over.

Q. You got the men's expenses or wages that you sent away as well as the \$1 per head?—A. I got no wages, just \$1.

Q. Did you get paid for the men you sent over collecting these men?—A. I do not understand.

Q. Who did you send over to Philadelphia?—A. I sent my brother.

Q. How much did you get from the Canadian Pacific Railway for this work?—A. I told you I paid Furnero \$3 per day.

Q. And his expenses?—A. I do not know.

Q. You do not remember about his expenses?—A. That is all I remember, \$3.

Q. He was not paid his hotel bill besides the \$3?—A. That is all I remember.

Q. He got his expenses?—A. He may have, I would not say no.

Q. You charged for his expenses?—A. That is three years ago.

Q. Did you establish any agencies at that time to supply you with men when you wanted them?—A. No, sir.

Q. Did your men do so?—A. My men went by my instructions to New York and Portland wherever they could get the men.

Q. Can you say how long that agreement lasted?—A. I had no expenses at all during the strike, only \$1 for each man I supplied.

Q. How long did that agreement last?—A. About three months.

Q. Then you entered into a new agreement?—A. Then this year, I think, the strike was over some time in August; I stayed idle for two or three months and went to see my friends about in the month of October. That same year after I came back here

SESSIONAL PAPER No. 36b.

a new agreement was made that I was to get \$5 per day. I was to meet No. 2 train every night and take No. 1 to go on and meet No. 2 as far back as Ottawa or any place to meet that train, and to send back the men where they came from. I did this until January.

Q. Did they get a free pass?—A. Yes.

Q. They were given free passes?—A. Yes, even when I brought them from New York they got free passes coming here.

Q. Did you charge any of them \$1 for hiring them?—A. Not at that time.

Q. That was later?—A. Yes.

Q. Then from that date, the fall of 1901 up to 1904 you were paid \$5 a day for your work?—A. You will excuse me, no, in December that year I was only given work to settle claims and translations until January. There were some complaints about money, wages, time, and I went with Mr. Burns to New York on January 9, 1902, and stayed there about eight days to settle up all claims in regard to wages. Then we went to Boston to see if anybody there claimed anything.

Q. Yes, what else?—A. Then from Boston came back to Montreal.

Q. Well now, when did you enter into a new agreement after that?—A. Then when I came back to Montreal I made up my bill for January and I think in February and I received a letter from Mr. Burns objecting to giving me the \$5 per day any longer, but would pay me so much for translation, so much for investigations, and would give me \$5 if I put in a full day's work, but I would be paid so much for each investigation when it took less than a day.

Q. Last year what was the agreement?—A. Last year, 1903, beginning of January, I was sick and was laid up for a couple of months, for seven weeks anyway. After I got a little better and Mr. Burns got me a pass and told me I had better go off on a trip, and I would have liked very well to go, but one of my children here was very sick and I did not go.

Q. What agreement?—A. This was agreement, \$5.

Q. \$5 per day?—A. When I put in full day.

Q. Did you put in full days from end of March until December?—A. I think from March until December there were four days cut off in October when I went on business to New York, and I was cut off from November.

Q. How many days?—A. If I do not mistake, about \$62 or \$65.

Q. I think you are not right?—A. You have the paper there. As far as I can remember we had some claims to settle then.

Q. That is later on. Look at the amount in January?—A. In January I took sick.

Q. During that year you got full months. In January, 1903, 2½ days, February, 6½ days; March, 26½ days; April, 29½ days, last April remember?—A. Yes.

Q. April, 1903, a year ago, you got Sundays?—A. Perhaps I worked on Sundays.

Q. I did not think you would work on Sunday?—A. I did, Your Honour.

Q. June, 30 days; July, 31; August, 31; September 30, you got paid for Sunday; October, 28, two Sundays struck off, you went to church on those days?—A. Yes, very good.

Q. November, 28 days, anything cut off, two Sundays?—A. In 1903.

Q. Anything cut off?—A. I got \$62, I am not sure. In December, my friend Skinner cut off that much.

Q. You got an account?—A. In December.

Q. December, 17½ days allowed?—A. That is all right, Mr. Skinner cut off Sundays.

Q. So you were working then?—A. I did some work as before. I thought amount was right so I took it.

Q. You took it because you could not get any more?—A. Yes, if I could have got more I would.

Q. Yes, you complained to Mr. Burns and wrote a hard letter to Mr. Skinner?—

A. Well, I do not say so; probably I was looking out for my rights.

4-5 EDWARD VII., A. 1905

Q. Then the \$5 arrangement continued until when?—A. Continued until 1903.

Q. 1904?—A. I beg pardon.

Q. What time in 1904?—A. Well, in January I took sick, last year.

Q. This year?—A. Got sick in January.

Q. When was the arrangement entered into?—A. This new arrangement was not in black or white, there was just a verbal arrangement.

Q. Verbal is good enough?—A. In April Mr. Burns spoke about it and on the same day we had to send some people away, and I said I will see.

Q. Did you not agree to it?—A. Well, I agreed to it in my own way. I did not know what he meant.

Q. That you were only to charge \$1. \$1 on this condition I have named?—A. My idea was that I would supply all the men needed and at the time of signing the contract I would make a list and would charge the company \$1 per man.

Q. Would not charge the men anything?—A. Any time I was sending for the men.

Q. You would not charge from the date you entered into the agreement?—A. I wish to say when signing the agreement I charged nothing to any men.

Q. You would not charge the men anything for employing them?—A. Just the time I was working for the Canadian Pacific Railway.

Q. Let us understand the matter. Mr. Burns swears that the agreement between you and him was this, you were to be paid \$1 for each man employed by the Canadian Pacific Railway, on the condition that you would not charge the men a single cent. Is that agreement right as Mr. Burns says, answer whether or not it is right. There cannot be two ways of understanding it. Mr. Burns swears that you agreed to supply the Canadian Pacific Railway with men, they to pay you \$1 each in condition that you were to charge the men nothing, is that right?—A. Not right, we—

Q. Where is it wrong?—A. It is wrong in this, at the time I worked in my office, in the office belonging to me when a man registered in my office, and when the C.P.R. asked for 100 men I make the contract and I charge nothing to the C.P.R.

Q. Would you refuse a man work without his being on your book?—A. Well, I refused nobody, but I took what was right.

Q. Mr. Burns is wrong when he said you were charging the men nothing?—A. Probably misunderstanding in his way.

Q. There could be no misunderstanding, you are an intelligent man?—A. There must have been a misunderstanding as to the way of hiring.

Q. The C.P.R. allowed you \$5 a day for looking after the men you were to hire?—A. No, when I was engaged last year for the C.P.R., I charged nothing. Then when during the strike I wanted 100 men, the men came to me and offered me money to be taken on.

Q. And you charged for these 100 men?—A. Not a cent, when engaged direct for the C.P.R.

Q. It was understood that you were to take nothing?—A. When I was hiring for the C.P.R.

Q. I suppose the men paid you money to get work?—A. The men came to my office which I had fitted up for them; I supplied them with envelopes, writing paper, ink and other conveniences tending to their comfort, and you would not expect me to do this for nothing.

Q. If any men registered last December they paid \$1?—A. I do not think there was any labourers registered.

Q. No labourers registered?—A. No.

Q. How many in round numbers paid \$10?—A. I cannot remember, but my books will show.

Q. Can you tell me how many?—A. Not very well.

Q. Pelligrino?—A. Paid me not a cent for registration.

Q. Polisenio?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Del Vecchio?—A. Yes, sir.

SESSIONAL PAPER No. 36b.

- Q. Mighella?—A. Yes.
- Q. Cirillo?—A. Never paid me a cent.
- Q. Maiorano?—A. Yes, \$10.
- Q. Misite?—A. Yes, \$10.
- Q. Memme?—A. \$10.
- Q. Bertone?—A. Nothing.
- Q. De Ciccio?—A. Yes, \$10.
- Q. Taliano?—A. Yes, paid \$10.
- Q. De Leva?—A. Nothing.
- Q. Luigi Vecchio?—A. \$10.
- Q. Bocconcelli?—A. \$10.
- Q. P. Bianco?—A. Not one cent. I think he came to complain. He never paid one cent for registering for this year.
- Q. Mollo?—A. Never paid a cent for registration this year.
- Q. Banechiero?—A. \$10.
- Q. Spinosa?—A. \$10.
- Q. Bazzani?—A. He paid \$9. He came to me and got \$5. I will give him back the rest.
- Q. Giacchi?—A. \$10.
- Q. Fuoco?—A. \$10.
- Q. Figara?—A. \$10.
- Q. Pellissio?—A. Nothing.
- Q. Onofrio?—A. I gave him back the \$10. I wanted his receipt back and he refused it.
- Q. Barachino?—A. \$10.
- Q. Denardi?—A. Nothing.
- Q. Scarfo?—A. \$10.
- Q. Mancini?—A. \$10.
- Q. Old Giacci?—A. \$10.
- Q. Leto?—A. \$10.
- Q. Aceto?—A. \$10.
- Q. Tisi?—A. \$10.
- Q. Perluzzi?—A. Nothing.
- Q. Cardarello?—A. \$10.
- Q. Tamnizzi?—A. Nothing.
- Q. Antonucci?—A. Has not paid.
- Q. How many men had he?—A. 20.
- Q. Condo from Boston?—A. \$10 and 41 men.
- Q. Lisa?—A. \$10.
- Q. F. Farina?—A. Only \$5 as foreman, 53 men.
- Q. Mateo Farini?—A. \$10, 50 men.
- Q. Lenzie, New York?—A. \$10, 32 men.
- Q. Localio?—A. Has not paid.
- Q. Ragonesi?—A. \$10, \$31 for men.
- Q. Zuccaro, New York?—A. \$10, 34 men.
- Q. Cosenza?—A. Got money back.
- Q. Masseni, New York?—A. Sent him money back.
- Q. Diana?—A. \$35 paid.
- Q. Mila?—A. \$10.
- Q. La Femina?—A. \$10.
- Q. V. Cordasco?—A. Nothing.
- Q. Ant. Giacci, Sciano, Mello?—A. Nothing this year.
- Q. Cerrone?—A. \$10.
- Q. D'Alessandro?—A. \$10.
- Q. Olivastri?—A. \$10.

Q. Filavori, Portland ?—A. This is not paid, 27 men.

Q. M. Tisi ?—A. \$10.

Q. Cina ?—A. Not paid, 25 men.

Q. A. Miele ?—A. \$10.

Q. Scarpino ?—A. Not paid anything.

By the Commissioner to Mr. Ganna:

Q. All these are foreman ?—A. Yes.

Q. How many are there ?—A. About 62.

Q. How many paid \$10 ?—A. More than 50.

Q. Since what time have they paid this amount ?—A. Since about the beginning of November last.

Q. Up to what date ?—A. Up to May or June.

Q. How many do you say ?—A. 62 foremen in all.

Q. Do you know how many men registered with these foremen and some without bosses during that time, from the end of November until the end of June ?—A. I made out a list of 3,863.

Q. Is that right ?—A. I don't know; it is about right. (Hands in list.)

By the Commissioner to Mr. Cordasco :

Q. Will you go over that list and tell me how many paid \$3 to you ?—A. I cannot say, probably 300 or 400.

Q. How many paid \$2 ?—A. I have not figured it out.

Q. How many paid \$4 ?—A. There may have been some, yes, 300 or 400.

Q. 400 ?—A. Yes, 400; Ganna put it in his book.

Q. What did Ganna put in his book ?—A. The amount I received.

Q. You have collected \$1 for registering all along, and \$2 for getting work for them, and lately you have been charging besides \$1 over the \$3 ?—A. Your Honour, excuse me, I only got from \$1 to \$3. The men paid me \$1 in December, then \$2 in March. Later on in June they came along and wanted to get registered, and they forced me to take more money. I can get half a dozen witnesses to prove this.

Q. How much have you received from these 3,863 men ?—A. The figures are all in the books; they paid \$1, \$2 or \$3.

Q. Have you received \$6,000 ?—A. No.

Q. \$8,000 ?—A. No, sir.

Q. I will go over the matter, but I don't want to take up the time now, and find out the money that has been paid since November. Where did you get all these men from Mr. Cordasco ?—A. Those I have been receiving lately are from all over. Of course, they know me to be supplying the Canadian Pacific Railway, and lots of men come during the last two or three years from all over and they have all had correspondence with me to know whether there would be work this year and to enter their names. I told them I can say nothing just now, but I expect there will be lots of work. I also told them not to come to Montreal until I called for them by letter or telegram. I told them also to send \$1 in order to have their names registered in my books.

Q. Did you tell any of these people that you wanted 10,000 men ?—A. I do not remember that I ever wrote such a letter, if you can show me it.

Q. I do not wish to show anything; from your memory, did you write to any one or advertise that you wanted 10,000 men this spring ?—A. I never authorized any one to put in paper about Cordasco wanting 10,000 men.

Q. Did you write to a firm in the United States stating that you wanted 10,000 men ?—A. I do not quite remember.

Q. Did you ever have a notice posted in Stabile's bank in Boston that you wanted 10,000 men ?—A. I never gave any such instructions.

Q. You heard about that notice ?—A. Ganna wrote him a letter about it.

SESSIONAL PAPER No. 36b.

Q. Where is that letter?—A. Well, Ganna has got this letter; Ganna you must get that letter. He put it in the book and signed it, saying we wanted 10,000 men.

Q. Cordasco wanted 10,000 men?—A. Yes, Your Honour.

Q. You heard that such notice was in Stabile's office?—A. No.

Q. What business had Ganna to write over your name and state that you wanted 10,000 men?—A. He signed many of my letters; we were good friends.

Q. You did not hear that your name was on that notice?—A. I never heard that. I asked Ganna who authorized him and why he advertised in the papers for 10,000 men.

Q. You will show me that letter you wrote, you had better have the letter book here?—A. You have all my papers. I have all my office before you.

Q. I want your letter books to-morrow morning.—A. You will have them.

Q. Do you know Mr. Paretti in Italy?—A. I never saw the man until I heard about this party when Deputy Minister King came to Montreal.

Q. You will swear to that now that you never heard of him until Mr. King came here?—A. I can swear that.

Q. You can swear that?—A. That is as I remember.

Q. I wish to warn you to be very careful because it is a serious matter if any one swears what is untrue; I want you to be careful.—A. I will tell you—

Q. Do you know Mr. Paretti?—A. Never saw him.

Q. Ever wrote to him?—A. Not myself.

Q. Did you ever write to him?—A. No, sir.

Q. Ever send him any of your cards?—A. No.

Q. Nor letter?—A. Not that I know of.

Q. Without your knowledge?—A. I found out there was some communications between A. N. Ganna, my bookkeeper, and him.

Q. Ever send him any newspaper?—A. Mr. Ganna—

Q. I am asking you, not Mr. Ganna?—A. I did not myself.

Q. Did you ask Mr. Ganna to send for one?—A. No, sir.

Q. And write him letters?—A. Well, sometimes Ganna writes letters and posts them without showing them to me. In these letters he may have said it is likely that Mr. Antonio Cordasco will want 10,000 men.

Q. Do you know where Paretti lives?—A. No, sir.

Q. Not even where he lives?—A. No, sir.

Q. Did you ever receive a letter from Paretti?—A. Well, I don't think until Mr. King—

Q. Yourself?—A. Myself, I did not myself.

Q. Did you ever receive a letter from Mr. Paretti?—A. I do not quite remember.

Q. Now Mr. King, did not see that letter at all from Mr. Paretti?—A. I think he saw it.

Q. No, he did not; I saw it first and you produced it to me; do you remember that?—A. Probably you did.

Q. On the 1st July?—A. Probably I did.

Q. Did you ever see it before I saw it?—A. That is the time I saw the letter from Paretti when Mr. King was here.

Q. You did not show it to Mr. King?—A. Mr. Ganna—

Q. Never mind Mr. Ganna, I want you to answer for yourself; did you show that letter to Mr. King?—A. I did not know such a letter.

Q. You stated you knew when he came here. I understand he knew nothing of this letter from Paretti to you?—A. I guess that is right.

Q. When did you get that?—A. That letter was received.

Q. You got that letter?—A. Yes, I got that letter.

Q. You did get that letter from Paretti?—A. Yes.

Q. When?—A. Some time ago; I do not remember it.

Q. About the time it is dated; have you got that letter, Mr. Cordasco?—A. The letter from Paretti? Your Honour, I think, has got it.

4-5 EDWARD VII., A. 1905

Q. Just see if you have it?—A. (Looks in book). That is it, 1st March, 1904.

Q. On the 1st March you wrote to Mr. Paretti as follows:—

Sig. ANTONIO PARETTI,

94 Aquileia, Udine, Italy.

I am in possession of newspaper which you were so kind as to send to me; also your cards, and wish to thank you for them; also two packages. I am sending you the time-table which you asked me for and my address, which you can give to the people so that I will know them when they come.

At the end of the present month there will open up great and important works, and I must supply about 10,000 labourers. If you have any passengers, you can send them without any fear—I am able to give them immediate work. The salary will be \$1.50 a day; besides that they will get a return ticket from any locality; they can board themselves or get board as they like. The work will last long and the payment is sure. Each man gets a contract in Italian, containing the clear conditions under which they have to work, in which is specified the length of time, salary, &c. In one word, there will be no tricks or schemes. I am always here to defend the interests of compatriots. I am besides in touch with other navigation agents in Italy, and they have already written to me that they will send some passengers to me this month. If you send any to me, please supply them with two of my business cards that I sent you, so that each passenger landing at New York will be recognized by one of my agents, which agent, authorized by me, will accompany them to the train, and on the train to Montreal, so that they won't be taken up by anybody else, or fall into the hands of speculators.

Already a large number of workers arrive continuously, especially from Vicenza, Treviso, and some from Padova, Belluno, also some from Pordenone, Codroipo.

If you wish to send us any men, you need not have any fear, and send them all to my address. You must notify me in time when the men will arrive, sending the names of the passengers and of the company and boat by which they start.

With regards,

(Sgd.) ANTONIO CORDASCO,

Per A. GANNA.

A. I never signed this letter, never authorized anybody to sign it.

Q. Did you get a letter in answer, do you remember that?—A. There was an answer.

Q. You remember that?—A. That time I was nearly firing Mr. Ganna. I did not want to fire anybody until I was sure, any way.

Q. You had received a postal card from Mr. Paretti before March 1?—A. I never knew there was any correspondence with this man.

Q. Will you look at this post card and see if you did not hand that to me on July 1?—A. Yes, I did.

Q. You got that?—A. I said there was a man.

Q. You got that letter in February or March 1?—A. I handed that post card because I knew nothing about the letter.

Q. You got that post card about March 1?—A. I don't know.

Q. Now, do you know what that post card says—(Reads) :—

UDINE, February 17, 1904.

'Mr. ANTONIO CORDASCO, Montreal.

'I received a newspaper, the *Corriere del Canada*, in which appears your distinguished name, as I believe you are the kind donor. As we have a strong stream of emigration (from the Venetian Provinces) towards that country, I should be very glad to frequently receive your newspaper, and I can reciprocate by sending you Italian papers.

SESSIONAL PAPER No. 36b.

'You might send me a time-table of the Canadian Pacific Railway from Montreal to the interior of Canada, with a map.

'Always at your disposal, and thanking you,

'Yours truly,

'ANTONIO PARETTI.'

Q. You know the paper?—A. I know the paper.

A. Pretty good paper?—A. It is all right, I think.

Q. Bears your distinguished name?—A. I never sent any.

Q. 'As I believe you are the kind donor,' you never sent that? 'As we have a strong stream of emigration from the Venetian Provinces,' &c?—A. I never had any communication with that gentleman.

Q. You remember reading that?—A. I think so.

Q. And you answered it?—A. No, I did not; ask Antonio Ganna; you can bring him under oath.

Q. I don't want to bring Ganna.—A. I blame him for the whole thing.

Q. Did you get another letter from Mr. Paretti?—A. I do not know what is coming. Well, go ahead.

Q. That I am trying to do but very slowly. On April 6, 1904, you again wrote to Mr. Paretti, do you remember that?—A. I don't remember.

Q. You say :—

MONTREAL, April 6, 1904.

'Mr. ANTONIO PARETTI,

'94 Via Aquilea, Udine.

'In these days some Italians come to me showing your blank business card and saying that you recommended them to me, and although the presentation signal was not a sure guarantee, I received them and I shall send them to work.

'In future it will be better, when you send Italians to me, to give them one of my business cards with your office stamp on them, and I shall be sure they are sent by you.

'Some time ago I sent you several business cards, to-day I am sending you some more of them.

'I thank you for the newspaper you sent me and hope you will receive weekly the newspaper that I send you.

'Yours truly,

'ANTONIO CORDASCO,

Per A. GANNA.

—A. Is my signature there, if it is then I will be responsible, Your Honour.

Q. Let me see the letter book, page 48. It is your signature, per A. Ganna, your stamp.—A. Anybody can make a stamp. I never authorized this gentleman to sign this.

Q. On April 26, 1904, you wrote again to Mr. Paretti :—

'MONTREAL, April 26, 1904.

'Mr. ANTONIO PARETTI,

'Udine, Italy.

'I confirm my letter of the 6th inst., and I address you the present to clear up some facts that cause me annoyance, that I do not need to have.

'Many immigrants from the Venetian Provinces came to me declaring they were sent by you, but without any card of recognition, and alleging that you had promised that they would be sent to work in two days.

'I don't wish to blame you for that nor do I believe what the men say, but I think it is better to clear the matter up. I give employment to all Italians who come to me as I wrote you in my letter of March 1, but it is absurd to expect that I am to give employment to-morrow to a man who applies to-day to my office. I could not put him

4-5 EDWARD VII., A. 1905

before the others who are awaiting their turn to go and work. Please note that this year we had an uncommonly long and hard winter, and in the west, where important railway works will be done the roads and land are still frozen, and it is no use sending labourers there. This year I sent away only 70, while in previous years at this time I sent away more than a thousand.

'Please note that many of your men declare that they are stonecutters, and that you promised them I would have them employed in this quality. I never wrote this.

'Many of these men said that they did not intend to work on railways, but to obtain from me free transportation to British Columbia, and then with very little money to go to Michel and work in the coal mines.

'You will understand how all this annoys me. I am not responsible for the extremely cold season that prevents the companies from starting work.

'No one has sent men away yet, and I have only sent 70.

'In conclusion, so as to eliminate trouble, from this moment do not send me any more passengers, and if you like to send some, please inform me how many are coming (as I asked you in my letter of March 1), and every man must have my business card with your office stamp on, and they must be warned that they must wait for their turn to go to work. Please, in the notice that you send me, state that you have warned them that they will have to await their turn. Also please send me a list with the names of the passengers you send me. Outside of these conditions, I am sorry to say that I could not accept the responsibility of giving work to your passengers. Please inform them that I will send them to work on railway construction and that they will have to work with pick and shovel.

'If, afterwards, some roadmaster may chose of them for some special work it will be all the better for them but I cannot guarantee to employ men in any particular quality.

'Yours truly,

'ANTONIO CORDASCO,

'Per A. GANNA.

Q. That is a pretty good letter?—A. I see something good on this letter, but Ganna wrote without my authorization.

Q. You are to blame?—A. Of course I am to blame.

Q. You remember a man named Ludwig, of Chiasso?—A. I wrote him last fall, I did it myself, I admit this.

Q. (Looking over letter.) That is to Ludwig, I see?—A. I wrote to Chiasso.

Q. When?—A. Last fall some time.

Q. To Ludwig, the 18th October?—A. Some time like that.

Q. The letter reads :

'MONTREAL, October 18, 1903.

'Mr. LUDWIG, Passenger Agent,

'Chiasso.

'By the same mail I am sending you a package of my business cards, asking you to hand them to the passengers, or better to the labourers that you will send directly to me.

'Please note that work here is never short and anybody you will send to me personally are sure to be employed. In summer you may send hundreds of them and be sure that as soon as they arrive they will find work at once.

'To satisfy the Italians better, I have opened a banking office of which I send a circular to you and from which you will see that I can do all that they request.

'Awaiting for some shipment and to hear from you soon.

'Yours truly,

'A. CORDASCO.

'P.S.—Please note that on the Canadian Pacific Railway alone I employ about 4,000 men per year, besides the other companies. Please take all the information you may require about me.'

SESSIONAL PAPER No. 36b.

Q. Ganna did not sign that?—A. These are matters I do not want to deny.

Q. You need not, your letter book shows that you signed it yourself.

Q. Then you received a letter from Mr. Ludwig?—A. Probably.

Q. He was an agent for sending prospective emigrants out. He wrote you as follows :—

‘CHIASSO, November 27, 1903.

‘Mr. A. CORDASK,

441 St. James street, Montreal.

‘I received in good time your favour of the 18th October. I did not answer at once because I wanted to get some information about you.

‘Now, as the information regarding you has reached me and it is pretty good, I am going to try and send you some passengers in the hope that they will not be cheated, and if I see that you act as an honest man I shall give your address to all the passengers who go to Montreal.

‘What I especially recommend to you is not to change your residence every moment like a wandering merchant.

‘On your envelope the address is 441 St. James Street and on your business card is 375; now which of the two is your right address.

‘If you provide work for some of my passengers you must be satisfied with a modest commission and Alberto Dini, with whom I worked until now placed my passengers without any commission, and I never had any complaint against him.

‘We shall see then if you will work with the same conscience and punctuality.

‘Waiting to hear from you.

‘F. LUDWIG.’

Q. On December 7th you wrote him a very long letter?—A. At the time I wrote I could secure no men at all.

Q. In that you first speak of your address and of your good qualifications and you state :

‘You must know after this that it has never been in my habits to cheat passengers of any nationality. I want and intend to be respected and I know how to respect others, no matter if they are rich or poor. I do not need that you should wait to see if I act as an honest man. I am an honest man like you and more than some Swissmen who ran away from his country to come here to cheat the others.

‘Every year I secure work for 4,000 or 5,000 men and next spring I need 10,000 to employ in the Canadian Pacific Railway and other railway companies and contractors, and you must know that all the workingmen for whom I secured work, when the season is over and that have paid every expense they can save from \$150 to \$600.

A. I guess you are right; Ganna may have put in about our employing 4,000 or 5,000 men. I did not say anything about 10,000 men.

Q. Do you remember sending that letter?—A. I never mentioned to this agent 10,000.

Q. You never mentioned that number to anybody?—A. I think not, I do not recollect.

Q. Are you quite clear?—A. Quite right. I never authorized Ganna to write about these men.

Q. Mr. Ganna did not write all your letters?—A. I was away last winter, he did all the work.

Q. You knew what he was doing very well?—A. I did not know that he was doing such business as to say I wanted 10,000 men.

Q. Supposing you look at the letter of February 9 to Mr. Aristide Guerrieri, it reads as follows:

4-5 EDWARD VII., A. 1905

'MONTREAL, February 9, 1904.

'Mr. ARISTIDE GUERRIERI,

'P. O. Box 11,

'Mapleton Dep., Pa.

'Your letter (without any date), I am sorry to say that I shall not be able to find and work that may suit you.

'I find work for thousands of men, and this year I shall be in need of 10,000 of them, but I need only men that can work with shovel and pick.

'Yours truly.'

A. On February 9 I was in bed and Ganna was manager in office. I did not authorize that.

Q. What about January 6?—A. I got sick, I think then.

Q. You were not sick on that date. You wrote on that date :—

'MONTREAL, January 6, 1904.

'Messrs. LUCA CAMMAROTA & Co.,

'13 Burns street, Fall River, Mass.

'I promptly answer to your letter. I do not make shipments to Nova Scotia. I send men to work for the C.P.R. and other great companies and contractors, and this year I shall be in need of 10,000 men.

'The first shipment will be sure in spring, according to the weather, and the first to start are those marked in my books.

'If you want more particulars write to me and I shall give them to you.

'Yours truly.'

A. I do not want to dispute any letter, but when Ganna says 10,000 men, I never authorized him.

Q. Suppose we take January 26, what about that date, were you pretty sick then?—A. Well, I was sick about six weeks.

Q. Able to talk?—A. Yes.

Q. I think so. Well, on January 26, you wrote :—

MONTREAL, January 26, 1904.

'Mr LUIGI SCARCELLA,

'243 Rideau street, Ottawa, Ont.

'In reply to your letter of the 23rd instant, of the contents of which I took note, but in this moment I do not know where I can find work for you.

'Next season I shall be in need of 10,000 men whose work will be heavy, and I understand in your letter you do not like to work with the shovel.

'In the beginning of March please write again and will see if I can do anything for you, but I cannot promise anything.

'Yours truly.'

Q. Do you remember writing that letter?—A. I can positively swear I never authorized Ganna to write about 10,000 men.

Q. You remember writing to Ludwig to send hundreds of them?—A. Last October was my first letter to send more men.

Q. But you tell him to send hundreds of them?—A. If I did that in my first letter I am wrong, but I will have to say I did so. A great many men in the States sent me over money.

Q. \$10 for foreman and \$1 each for gangs?—A. Yes, Your Honour.

Q. How many hundreds came over from the States?—A. I cannot say. I cannot tell now.

Q. Will you find it for me?—A. About 2,000 or 3,000.

Q. They pay \$1 for having their name put down here?—A. Yes.

Q. Here in Montreal?—A. Yes.

SESSIONAL PAPER No. 36b.

Q. You require them to pay \$1 before putting them down?—A. They have to pay \$1.

Q. You would not put them down unless they paid \$1?—A. There is no use working for fun.

Q. I am asking whether you would not put their name down without their paying the \$1?—A. No.

Q. So that it was compulsory that they first register with you and pay \$1?—A. Any man who applies for work has to pay \$1.

Q. \$10 for foremen, \$1 for registering, and then going out to get work \$2 or \$3. You have been telling me some time ago that it was a matter left to their free will to pay or not?—A. They come and offer me money.

Q. But you demand the dollar?—A. I do.

Q. So that it is no free-will offering on their part. I see that there are some who have to pay \$10 as foremen. I have a number of letters from the States, men sending \$25, \$50 and other large sums of money, some of them asking that their names be put down and you refuse to put their names down unless the foremen has sent the \$10?—A. That is my order.

Q. You do business with Messrs. Stabile & Co.?—A. When I want men I get them from New York.

Q. How many last year did they send over?—A. 600, 800 or 1,000. I gave everything to Mr. Burns.

Q. You send everything to Mr. Burns' office?—A. Yes.

Q. Do you divide up the commission with Mr. Burns?—A. No, sir.

Q. How much do you give him?—A. Not a cent.

Q. Have you got an entry of that in any way?—A. No.

Q. No book entry?—A. No.

Q. It goes into Cordasco's pocket?—A. And from my pocket into the Toronto Bank.

Q. How many men come over from the States for 4, 5 or 6 months?—A. All I can say that when they come I ask them why they cannot stop here and make a British subject.

Q. How many men come over from the States for two or three months?—A. I don't know that.

Q. For six months?—A. I don't know; the Italians come 200 or 300 strong, sometimes there may be 2,000 of them; they do not come to stay.

Q. None of them?—A. Some.

Q. How many?—A. 200 or 300.

Q. Are all these men entered in your book who come here?—A. Yes.

Q. How many came from Italy with your cards?—A. Five or ten cards, belonging to me, simply saying Antonio Cordasco a good friend.

Q. Have you got any of these cards?—A. They were simply little cards.

Q. Have you any?—A. I have not got any.

Q. Now, in March, April and May there were a great many Italians in Montreal?—A. Yes.

Q. How many?—A. My idea is, I do not know, 5,000 or 6,000.

Q. How many of these reported to you?

A. None.

Q. How many came to your office for work?—A. Hundreds and hundreds. I estimated the number here at 3,000 or 4,000, not quite 1,500 came for work to my office.

Q. All these men that you have put in your register called at your office?—A. Yes.

Q. So, that as soon as Mr. Ganna counts up in your register you will know how many called?—A. Probably.

Q. I suppose a great many called that did not register?—A. Not many, for none had money.

Q. They knew it was not worth while to go; if they went they would not be put in your book.

Q. How many men came to your office that did not register?—A. I cannot say.

Q. About how many?—A. Hundreds and hundreds.

Q. How many hundreds came that did not register?—A. I cannot say.

Q. 2,000, 3,000, 15,000?—A. I cannot say, probably 2,000 or 3,000.

Q. How many of these were destitute, that is unable to buy provisions for themselves?—A. In my office there were only two or three.

Q. Only two or three?—A. Two or three Italians.

Q. How many men do you think among those in Montreal were unable to get bread?—A. I cannot say.

Q. You heard the evidence?—A. Probably 600 or 800, some of them who had money applied for bread.

Q. How many did that?—A. A good many.

Q. Here are some nice little cards?—A. That is Cordasco, I cannot deny that.

Q. Do you know that these men had two?—A. That is my name, but not my card.

Q. That was given to a man at Antwerp, have you an agent there?—A. No, sir.

Q. Who gave him that?—A. I cannot say.

Q. How did he come to put your name in print?—A. My name is pretty well known all over.

Q. That is your name?—A. Yes.

Q. Address?—A. Yes.

Q. Delivered to passengers at Antwerp?—A. Yes.

Q. How did it come there?—A. Some men sent them. I cannot say whether Mr. Ganna sent cards. I don't blame him, as I might have said, 'send a large number of cards.'

Q. But Ganna did not get this card printed?—A. Ganna, he did everything.

Q. Did you get this card printed?—A. Ganna will know.

Q. Will you read it in English? A. (Reads). 'Montreal, February 25, 1904. Invitation to the banquet given by the Italian foremen in honour of the King of Labour on the evening of Saturday, February 27, 1904, at the Hotel D'Italia, No. 471 Craig St., Montreal, Canada. The President of the Committee, F. Cordasco.'

Q. Who was that given to?—A. It must have been to Antonio Cordasco.

Q. Was he king of the workingmen?—A. I was then, but not to-day.

Q. That was in February, did you get that printed?—A. There is the gentleman who did the work. (Pointing to Ganna).

Q. At your request?—A. Well, I told him to go ahead.

Q. You got up the banquet?—A. Well yes, cost me something.

Q. You were king and got up the banquet?—A. These men paid some money too.

Q. What is that emblem there?—A. I don't know.

Q. Does not that crest belong to Italy?—A. It is not the full crown of Italy.

Q. Is that the emblem of Italy?—A. It is not the full crown, I do not know.

Q. I suppose it would be very wrong to put on the full crown?—A. Ganna did that.

Q. Poor Ganna, what about these envelopes, did you get them up?—A. Mr. Ganna got these up.

Q. Not the full crown?—A. Some machine like that.

Q. Did he print these?—A. He ordered some one to print them.

Q. Where?—A. Some one in Montreal.

Q. The 'Corriere del Canada'?—A. I think so.

Q. Cordasco runs that paper?—A. Cordasco gives some money.

Q. That looks very official, does it not?—A. I cannot say.

Q. On arrival in Italy, they would think that came from the king?—A. I do not know that, Your Honour.

Q. You had these envelopes in different colours, green, blue, yellow and brown. These are all Antonio Cordasco's crests?—A. Yes, Your Honour.

SESSIONAL PAPER No. 36b.

Q. Those going to Italy have the Italian emblem. That was for usual correspondence?—A. I don't know that is what he says, it is not the full crown.

Q. You have these go to Italy, Mr. Cordasco?—A. I did not call myself King.

Q. You came pretty near?—A. Now they try to dismiss me, those friends of mine.

Q. That is the way, there seems to be a great want of Christianity.—A. Like Our Lord, the Jews took him and said we want to kill him.

Q. Now, you wrote to Peter Bazzano on January 11?—A. I think I know about that.

Q. You told him:

'MONTREAL, January 11, 1904.

'Mr. PETER BAZZANO,

'P.O. Box 4210, Sydney, C.B.

'In reply to your letter, as I told you already, the first to be shipped are those already marked in my books, and who come every day to give their names, paying by their own will, the interpreters \$10 and the men \$1 each for office fees.

'If you and your men intend to be shipped by me, and if you like to pay what the others have paid, send the list of the men and the money order.

'The shipments will be in spring, according to the weather, and the contract must be signed in Montreal personally.

'The wages will be as they always have been.

'As I told you before, if you like to send your names to me I will try to get a free pass for you from St. John.

'Yours truly.

Q. You got the money order?—A. That is correct.

Q. And he has not got work?—A. His turn has not come.

Q. Did you do that with many?—A. The work did not begin.

Q. How many did you register at that time, when you got the money?—A. I cannot say.

Q. Will you find out and let me know to-morrow?—A. Yes.

Q. I notice in reading these lists here they show that you demanded money from men, and that you received money from some of them. You will give me a list of names you received other than the men registered to-morrow morning?—A. You will have to give Mr. Ganna time, we will work all night.

Q. You wrote letters, of which the following is a sample, to a great many men in the United States:

'I have received your letter. The shipment will start as soon as the season will permit it, but the first to start will be those who entered their names in my books paying willingly, the interpreters \$10 each and the men \$1 for office fees.

'All the names of the men will be entered progressively, and when their turn will come they will be notified by letter.

'Every interpreter has to give the name of 50 men.'

The daily wages for the interpreters will be \$2.50 and more, and \$1.50 and more for the men.

'Men can board by themselves.

'The transportation will be free up and down from and to Montreal.

'The contracts will be signed in Montreal.

'If you want to enter the names for the first shipments, send the list of the names, the money order and your address clearly written.

'Yours truly,'

Q. That form of letter was sent to a number of men in the states?—A. These men they wrote me first.

Q. That is the form of letter you wrote?—A. I did not authorize this letter.

Q. That is the reply to the letter you sent. Send a money order, if for 50 men \$50, and \$10 besides for an interpreter, or \$100 for 100 men?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. And when they came here asking you for work you required them to pay you \$1 before you would register their names, and when these men were entered in your books you charged them \$2 more for getting them work.—A. Yes, and \$1 for keeping them on my books.

Q. And then \$2 or more when you got them work?—A. In order to keep my office here I have to make big expenses, Your Honour.

Q. And you got a great number of letters to that effect?—A. I cannot live on air, I have heavy expenses.

Q. You remember Ubalde Zembla, of 167 Willa Ave., New York?—A. Have I got his name on my list?

Q. He sent a money order, but there is no entry in your books. You wrote him on February 3: 'I received a cheque for \$51 for which I acknowledged receipt in due course, and I received the list of the men which had been progressively entered in my books' ?—A. That might have happened.

Q. Do you remember that fact?—A. I remember several letters were received and we replied to them.

Q. Did you get \$10 from Rafaele La Femina?—A. Yes. I got his name on the list.

Q. Did he get his money back?—A. He said he was going to work to the——

Q. No matter what he said, did he get his money back?—A. No.

Q. He put it into the lawyers' hands to prosecute, and you said you would pay it back?—A. He said he had registered with me and would wait a while.

Q. Were the Canadian Pacific Railway calling for any men?—A. No.

Q. You did not give him back his money yet?—A. Yes.

Q. Do you know Frank Aiello of New York?—A. Yes.

Q. An agent of yours?—A. A friend of mine.

Q. An agent of yours—you have used him as an agent?—A. Well, yes, I took some men from him last year.

Q. On January 6 he telegraphed you: 'Have sent 156 men from New York and 57 from Buffalo. Their passage both ways are prepaid. One paid fare from Montreal to New York' ?—A. Yes, that is an answer to my telegram. I got it from New York. The company wanted over 200 men.

Q. Then Bianco Stabile is your agent too?—A. Yes.

Q. How many men did he send over?—A. 15 and 25, that would be 40 on January 6. From Boston there came 75, they paid their own fare to Montreal.

Q. So that you telegraphed these gentlemen to send you over men in January?—A. Not for any work here.

Q. You telegraphed for these men, did you not, answer?—A. Put me one question at a time.

Q. Did you telegraph for these men to Aiello and Stabile?—A. I telegraphed for them.

Q. Did these men come?—A. No men came.

Q. Why?—A. Because Stabile got order.

Q. How many men were shipped from Boston and New York. How many were shipped with passes and without passes?—A. That is before January?

Q. Yes.—A. Shipped last fall?

Q. Yes.—A. I will find out. I do not want to put myself in trouble, I want to answer the questions every time.

Q. Do you know Messrs. M. Torchia and Co., of Boston?—A. I had correspondence with them.

Q. You heard they were hiring men there to go to British Columbia?—A. I remember about them, they wanted to supply men and I wrote them back I had no work beginning here.

Q. On March 12, 1904, you wrote them:—

SESSIONAL PAPER No. 36b.

'MONTREAL, March 12, 1904.

'Messrs. M. TORCHIA & Co.,
'Boston, Mass.

'I was told that in your bank you hire men to go and work for the C.P.R., in British Columbia, paying one dollar each.

'Really this is very strange news, because I am the sole agent for supplying men to the C.P.R., and I did not give any order to any body to hire men.

'If I had to give such order for Boston, Messrs. Stabile & Co. are my sole agents, so in the event that you have men who want to go and work you must apply to Stabile & Co., who will give you all the information you may require. No shipment of men will be recognized but those made through Stabile & Co.

'Yours truly,'

—A. That is right, that is correct.

Q. You would not let any one else hire men for the C.P.R.?—A. They were strangers. They should not hire men for the C.P.R. without getting their permission.

Q. That is your permission. Why did you not let them have some of these men hired by other people. Why refuse work here and require an entry in your books before they went to work?—A. I do not know.

Q. Just think?—A. I don't think any thing about it.

Q. Did you not know that man in North Bay?—A. Barrachino?

Q. He hires men?—A. He has been hired in Montreal and we refused him.

Q. They refused them in North Bay?—A. There were some men hired for the C. P.R. and were refused, were hired through me?

Q. Well, I will have to show you a letter you wrote to Mr. Burns. You would not let them go to work unless they came through your office, until registered.—A. I do not understand the question.

Q. The roadmaster heard of the same and made a complaint, stating that these men came through your office?—A. Yes.

Q. And they were refused work because of that fact?—A. I don't know that they were refused.

Q. They came back, were registered in your office and got work?—A. I do not remember. Every day there are men coming to my office.

Adjourned until 10 a.m., on July 23, 1904.

MONTREAL, July 23, 1904.

THE COURT HOUSE, 10 A.M.,

The Commission resumes.

PRESENT :

HIS HONOUR, JUDGE WINCHESTER, *Commissioner*.

H. M. MOWAT, Esq., *Counsel for the Dominion Government*.

Mr. HORMISDAS LAPORTE, being sworn.

By Mr. Mowat :

Q. Are you mayor of Montreal for this year?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. When did you become aware of the presence in Montreal of a large number of Italian labourers, in the month of May, I think?—A. Yes, in the month of May a large number of Italian labourers in our streets, in going through the district.

4-5 EDWARD VII., A. 1905

Q. Your daily walks happened up there?—A. I live up town and have to come down Windsor and James streets about six times a day.

Q. Any representations made to you by anybody that it might become a matter of embarrassment?—A. I think at the end of May, I cannot remember the date, about the 28th or 29th, Mr. Catelli called at the city hall.

Q. Was he acting in an official capacity?—A. Yes, he came as a representative of the Italian Benevolent Association, to which the city had subscribed a couple of hundred dollars at my request in last December.

Q. Did he say they had no more money, what was the reason he came?—A. He came on a Monday afternoon during a meeting of council, and told me that he wished to notify the civic authorities that the association had spent all their money, more than the money subscribed for such purposes as it was money sent by the Italian government to furnish a building on Windsor street to be used as a refuge, and that they were at the end of their resources, and he thought it his duty to notify the civic authorities that the association would not be responsible for what might take place in future. These people were very peaceable and they never had any trouble with them, and he said it seemed to him that the city must provide for them as they needed bread to keep them from starving. I then inquired of him what was the number of people that were without resources, and he said about 1,200, I think that a few of them will find help from their relatives and friends and will find lodgings with friends, but the others have no money, no friends and no resources and depend entirely on public help.

Q. After getting this report from Mr. Catelli, did it appear to you as head of the municipality there was something to be done?—A. Surely.

Q. What did you do, ask for a police report?—A. I invited Mr. Catelli to call on me next morning at my office between 11 and 12. At the same time I called Mr. Lane, who was secretary of the charity organizations of Montreal, and on whom I depend greatly to get first information on any people who ask for help, and then Mr. Catelli and Mr. Lane and other gentlemen came to my office. We discussed the situation, and after having Mr. Catelli's statement corroborated more or less by some other people there, I wrote to Sir Wilfrid Laurier, and we advised Mr. Lane to give notice through the newspapers that he would receive subscriptions from the public, and that he would take the responsibility of distributing money to those immigrants who had no means to the best of his judgment.

Q. I understand it was on May 31 that you wrote to the premier, you have not got the letter?—A. I have just given instructions to get a copy of it, which will be here in a few minutes, it was on May 31.

Q. Was there any further correspondence with the government?—A. Well, I received an acknowledgment from Sir Wilfrid Laurier saying he had referred the matter to the Minister of the Interior, and a couple of days after, two or three days, I received a telephone from Mr. Lane informing me that 100 more immigrants had arrived on the same day and I received the confirmation of that telephone by other authorities. I had learned that accommodation had been secured by 500 immigrants who were to come by Hudson river and Albany at the rate of 100 daily.

Q. Coming from New York?—A. I was told that there were 500 to come by the same road as the 100 who came by the Hudson River and Albany and then by railroad to Montreal. Then the situation promised to become worse. Then many of our citizens who had knowledge of the city affairs asked me to interfere and get the Minister to write immediately, as we were afraid of trouble if this immigration was not stopped.

Q. I think you afterwards got some reports from the police, one of which I see here?—A. Yes, on June 3.

Q. I have a letter addressed to you by Mr. Charpentier, chief detective; it reads:—

CITY HALL, MONTREAL, June 3, 1904.

'H. LAPORTE, Esq.,

'Mayor, City.

'SIR,—With reference to my letter of this date, I have the honour to submit the following additional report: I interviewed Mr. Charles Honoré Catelli, Chairman de

SESSIONAL PAPER No. 36b.

la Société de Secours d'Immigration Italienne, who stated that there were between 1,500 and 2,000 Italians out of work in the city now, about 500 of whom are in need of assistance. About 500 more Italians are expected to arrive this week from the United States. The Société distributed this morning 130 one and one-half pound loaves of bread, and Mr. Catelli states that their funds are now exhausted, and they cannot do anything more. Mr. Catelli suggested that it would be well if the railroad companies applied to the immigration agencies direct for labourers instead of to the employment agencies, because then those who have no money would have an equal chance of securing employment with those who have funds. The Immigration Society have already tried to have this plan followed, but without success.

'I inclose herewith copy of report from Detective Riopel, who was detailed to interview the Italian consul.

'I have the honour to be, sir,
'Your obedient servant,

JOSEPH CHARPENTIER,
'Sergeant Detective.'

This is the inclosure mentioned :—

'June 3, 1904.

'As per instructions from Sergeant Detective Charpentier, I proceeded to 107 Mackay street, where I interviewed Count Mazza, Italian Consul. He stated that to-day there are a number of Italians in Montreal who have been brought here by some 'ads.' in different papers. He would not tell me the number, but said that there are not many more this year than previous years; but that this year the big companies, like the Grand Trunk and Canadian Pacific, who used to take thousands, only take hundreds. He also stated that some of these men informed him that they were told they would get work as soon as they got off the ship on this side. He further said that just now some one is bringing more of these people from the United States. He said that the Italian Society knows how many of these men are here now. He informed me that on April 20 and May 10 last he cabled to Italy to stop these men from coming here, but he is informed that more are coming. He thinks that the government should take some means to send them back to Italy or find some work for them, because he claims they have no money and no means whatever to support themselves. He stated that the Italian Society's funds are exhausted and they are not able to support them any longer.

'(Signed), ALFRED RIOPEL.'

Q. Have you formed any opinion, Mr. Mayor, as to the work done by certain employment agencies, whether there is any action taken by them or whether there is any trouble likely to arise from the indiscriminate bringing in of labourers?—A. Well, I would not like to express an opinion on the subject; you see the documents just read. I suppose evidence can be secured from the men which will assist the court to form its judgment without any expression of opinion from me.

By the Commissioner :

Q. Did you make inquiry as to where these men came from?—A. In the case of 600, yes; they told me they came from New York.

Q. Did they arrive from Italy in New York, or live in New York?—A. I understood they had just arrived from Italy. They were unloaded at New York and shipped from there.

Q. These were really destitute?—A. Well, I cannot say that the whole were destitute.

Q. One would imagine that it was those that came from Italy that were destitute rather than those from the states?—A. That is what I thought. That is why I took so much trouble to try and stop them. I understood that those unloaded in New York

4-5 EDWARD VII., A. 1905

and shipped here were not the most desirable immigrants, and that the Americans did not want them.

Q. Did you ascertain what induced them to come here?—A. By some personal investigation I made.

Q. You made a personal investigation?—A. Yes; they came to my office four or five a day for money. A large number of people took an interest in these troubles, citizens of Montreal and gentlemen connected with the Italians, and I understood that these troubles were caused principally by certain agencies preferring to give work to those who had made deposits first and leave the others without work.

Q. Do you know who were interested in bringing them out?—A. Well, I had the names of a few agents; Mr. Cordasco, who, I understand, claimed that he had large contracts from railway companies which he must fill, and he brought out a certain number of men.

Q. Do you remember how many?—A. He never mentioned the exact number to me.

Q. Did he mention about how many he would require on the railway?—A. He mentioned last year about 10,000 men would find employment.

Q. That he wanted 10,000?—A. He expected that number would be required this year.

Q. When was this he said that?—A. It was on the 1st or 2nd of June, a couple of days after Mr. Catelli had made his declaration to me. Mr. Cordasco came to my office, and in the presence of some gentlemen, among whom was Alderman Gallery, he tried to show that he was discriminating, and that all of the men had money, and had shown some, and were spending it very freely in saloons. As this did not correspond with my information, I contested the statement, but it was corroborated by a couple of other agencies.

Q. You then thought the statement incorrect from your personal investigation?—A. From the information I had through the Italians and gentlemen connected with the Italian colony, who had always taken a great interest in their welfare, like Mr. Catelli, I found it was not correct.

Q. Do you remember seeing any of these men intoxicated on the streets?—A. Never. I do not remember seeing any.

Q. What means were taken to secure employment for these men?—A. I had applied to the newspapers to publish at such a place in the paper a statement to the effect that we had a large number of workingmen desirous of work who would be willing to accept work in any part of the country. This had been done by the newspapers very freely, and a number of letters came from Manitoba and the North-west Territories, and I passed these letters to Mr. Candori's office, and they shipped a certain number.

Q. How many were shipped in that way?—A. I cannot tell you.

Q. About how many?—A. 100 or 200. I know Mr. Catelli informed me he had shipped 50 to one man, and 10 or more to others.

Q. What was the expenditure to the city in consequence of the influx?—A. The city did not contribute any money as a city; the citizens gave. I cannot tell how much money was subscribed. I started myself with a few dollars.

Q. By private subscriptions?—A. Yes.

Q. I understand that the city subscribed something to the Italian Immigration Aid Society?—A. Yes.

Q. How much?—A. Just \$200.

Q. That was paid over?—A. Well, I am not sure whether all the money was paid. It was to be paid by \$50 every three months. Besides that, I do not know but we subscribed \$500 to send back the people.

Q. Did you ascertain what was the effect of this large immigration on the labour market, as to wages?—A. Well, no. As far as the city is concerned, we have a standard scale of wages, and our departments are not allowed to pay less than \$1.50 per day for labour. This immigration had no effect on civic labourers.

SESSIONAL PAPER No. 36b.

Q. Did the city employ any of these immigrants?—A. I do not know. I think the city did, as they have since a few years some good Italian citizens in Montreal.

Q. Is \$1.50 per day the minimum scale?—A. The minimum scale for labourers, established three years ago.

Q. Of course contractors are not bound by these figures?—A. Well, contractors who contract for the city are bound.

Q. Did you ascertain whether the provincial government had any agents or persons who were inducing Italians to come?—A. I never heard of that.

Q. Nor the Dominion government?—A. I have never heard of it.

Q. Did any of these Italians complain of any one inducing them to come to this country?—A. Not to me personally. I have seen friends connected with Italian immigration, and when started this benevolent association I understood it was to have lodgings for those who arrived destitute, and at the same time they interest themselves in getting work for them.

Mr. MOWAT.—This is the letter to Sir Wilfrid Laurier of May 31 last of which you spoke :—

(Translation.)

'MONTREAL, May 31, 1904.

'The Honourable Sir Wilfrid Laurier,

'Premier of Canada,

'Ottawa.

'Sir,—I hope you will pardon me if I take up a moment of your time to call your attention to the large number of indigent Italians who are walking the streets of Montreal since a few weeks.

'Persons in authority inform me that at the present time there are at least 1,200 of these immigrants in the midst of our population, whereof at least 600 are absolutely destitute, the other half having to depend on the kindness of friends and parents for their living.

'It is true that the Italian Society has supported these unfortunates since some time, but I learn this society is now at the end of its resources.

'A sentiment of fear pervades our citizens that these people who have been enticed to Montreal, may commit some excesses, because we have not sufficient employment at present to give them work.

'I have just been informed that over 100 more have arrived this morning, and that the Canadian Government agents in the ports of Boston, Halifax and St. John allow them entry into the country with too great facility.

'We are of the opinion that a serious investigation should be made in order to shoulder the responsibility for such a state of things upon those at fault, and our citizens will esteem it a boon if you will kindly consent to take the initiative in stopping this influx of unemployed and in repatriating those already here.

'It is needless to say that the municipal authorities will heartily concur and will place themselves at your disposal in every way possible.

'Please accept, sir, my best regards.

'The Mayor of Montreal.

H. LAPORTE.

Mr. CORDASCO re-called.

By the Commissioner:

Q. You were to make out a statement last night as to the number of men who registered with you this year?—A. My bookkeeper has got it I think.

Q. From the statement that you produce, Mr. Cordasco, there appears to be 63 foremen?—A. Well, yes.

4-5 EDWARD VII., A. 1905

Q. I want you to swear to it!—A. Yes, if in my books ; of course, if one does not know anything about it.

Q. I want you to know something. Well, have these men all paid?—A. Three have not paid.

Q. If all had paid it would be \$630. What is this, only \$465 you received ; is that correct?—A. I received \$10, unless for three men. This would be \$600.

Q. Did you receive \$600 from the foremen?—A. I received \$10 from each foreman, besides \$3

Q. Then I see 3,916 men?—A. Mr Ganna brought the name of all the men I registered

Q. Is that right?—A. It is right

Q. You received from these \$5,656?—A. Yes

Q. Do you know what rate they paid?—A. Some \$1 and some \$3

Q. Do you know how much you received from the Canadian Pacific Railway for these men?—A. Not one cent.

Q. For any of them?—A. I supplied all men free to the Canadian Pacific Railway.

Q. How much did you charge the Canadian Pacific Railway?—A. I did not receive anything. I did not care.

Q. You are not so liberal as all that. You charged five dollars a day when you were sending them out before this arrangement?—A. Yes, if I did a full day's work.

Q. Is that a statement of the charge of \$5 during last year, up to the end of December, 1903?—A. Yes.

Q. So you received from the Canadian Pacific Railway \$1,456 up to the end of last year. How much this year?—A. Only a few dollars for January, February and March, I cannot say whether it is \$400 or more.

Q. Let me see your accounts?—A. I gave my bill to the Canadian Pacific Railway, probably they have my receipts. You have got all my papers

Q. I have not got all your papers ; I do not want them all?—A. January and February I was most of the time sick.

Q. This year?—A. Yes, I did not work.

Q. This is your receipt for January, \$185, is that correct?—A. For January, yes, that is wages.

Q. How much wages?—A. \$60 I guess, it is marked on this bill.

Q. On this bill ; I do not see \$60 salary?—A. It is all there.

Q. \$37.50, is that correct?—A. I think it is.

Q. Previous to this \$51.49 paid a man named Mosco helping to meet trains?—

A. Placed some of them in boarding house and other services.

Q. You paid him \$46.50 and they paid for that?—A. Yes, I had an arrangement.

Q. You received a profit of \$87.50 for that. You charge there for provisions bought for Chinese going to the coast?—A. Yes.

Q. At whose request did you supply these provisions?—At Mr. Burns' request.

Q. Who supplied these provisions for you?—A. J. C. Spenard.

Q. Of 329 St. James, which is three or four doors from you ; they are retail grocers?—A. Yes.

Q. And he supplied all the provisions requested?—A. Yes.

Q. He delivered them to the train?—A. Yes.

Q. Did you forward his account to the Canadian Pacific Railway?—A. No.

Q. Why?—A. I did not consider they had anything to do with the Canadian Pacific Railway.

Q. But you charged the Canadian Pacific Railway certain profits?—A. Not now, before, long ago.

Q. Did you ever have any complaints by Mr. Burns against you for this?—A. No.

Q. Did they inquire into the value of these goods?—A. I don't know if they did it or not.

Q. Not from you?—A. No.

SESSIONAL PAPER No. 36b.

Q. What profit was it you asked and charged for these provisions?—A. Well, according to the rise in bread or beans or other items, I had some profit because I had to have three or four extra men, and had to get men at the station, check baggage and put them safe in the cars. There was some cost, I paid men extra.

Q. Mosco met the trains?—A. My brother Jack and others.

Q. The Canadian Pacific Railway had an agent to inspect?—A. Sometimes they had a man.

Q. Mr. Burns said that they had to see that the provisions were proper, and made Spenard bring them in his wagon?—A. Yes.

Q. So that you had not very much trouble about that?—A. I had to be there myself.

Q. And got \$5 a day for being there last year, did you not?—A. Yes.

Q. Mr. Burns ran over the accounts made by Spenard and yours. You charged about 60 per cent, sometimes 62 per cent and sometimes more profit?—A. Probably on the sardines.

Q. The sardines were 150 per cent. Strange how sardines go up?—A. Well, I am not very well posted on the fluctuations of sardines.

Q. You charged about 60 per cent; that is a fair profit?—A. May be, that much.

Q. More?—A. I do not know, Your Honour.

Q. Mr. Burns went through Spenard's accounts against you?—A. He did not say anything.

Q. I don't see the Spenard accounts here?—A. Yes.

Q. Did he know you were making a profit last year?—A. I gave in my bills, so much for bread, so much for beans, &c. They were passed right along. If they found I was wrong they should have said so.

Q. Last year you made over \$3,800 out of these provisions?—A. Probably I did.

Q. You got paid by the Canadian Pacific Railway for all these provisions?—A. Yes, but nothing from April.

Q. You have not settled your accounts for April?—A. There was no money paid to me from April.

Q. You charged the same profit since April?—A. Yes.

Q. Why have you not settled since April?—A. I have asked for the same.

Q. More than once?—A. Yes.

Q. And you have not yet settled with the Canadian Pacific Railway?—A. No, sir.

Q. What is the reason?—A. I don't know.

Q. Does not Mr. Burns?—A. Want to see if I have right to charge \$1.

Q. You know what the agreement is?—A. There is no agreement.

Q. You charged \$41 to the Canadian Pacific Railway for 41 men at \$1 per head, that is according to your new agreement?—A. Yes.

Q. How did you come to telegraph to Foley Bros. and Larson?—A. Because I had my own foremen and my own Italian labourers. I went to Mr. Burns and asked where I could place some. He told me, 'I am waiting for orders from the superintendents.' This year, of course, was altogether different from last year; last year we began in March, this year the winter was very hard, and we were waiting for orders for a large number of men.

Q. So you telegraphed all around?—A. Well, I went to Mr. Burns.

Q. Why did you go to Mr. Burns?—A. Because he had to have first chance.

Q. That had nothing to do with Foley Bros. and Larson?—A. He is better posted than I am.

Q. Was he desirous that you should give Foley Bros. and Larson a chance?—A. Yes.

Q. And he paid for your telegram?—A. I don't think so.

Q. Why?—A. I cannot tell.

Q. He was interested in your sending these men out?—A. I cannot say, Your Honour. I was ready myself to pay.

Q. You were, but you did not?—A. He said he would stand for the telegram; I said all right.

4-5 EDWARD VII., A. 1905

Q. Had he any interest in getting these men to pay for going out?—A. Not a cent.

Q. Now, did you state in your office between November and April that you wanted 10,000 men?—A. Not direct. People asked me how is work going to be, and I may have stated there will be a lot of work.

Q. Did you say that you wanted 10,000 men?—A. Not direct, I might mention.

Q. Did you say that?—A. I may.

Q. Did you or did you not?—A. Probably I did.

Q. Did you. I want to know whether you did or not?—A. I do not remember.

Q. Did you or did you not?—A. If I say—

Q. Will you say yes or no?—A. I say yes.

Q. Did you?—A. Probably I did.

Q. You cannot get rid of the probably?—A. You see, one day in conversation I may have said.

Q. Did you?—A. I do not remember.

Q. When did you begin to say you wanted 10,000?—A. I did not say it direct.

Q. What did you say?—A. I said next year probably there will be considerable work.

Q. You know what you said?—A. I may have said that about 10,000 will be wanted for work between November of last year and April of this year. I don't know; probably I said that.

Q. That you wanted 10,000 men?—A. That there would be work for that number. I did not say I wanted them myself.

Q. You did not want anybody for yourself; you wanted them for the Canadian Pacific Railway?—A. I may have said next year there will be work for probably 10,000 men.

Q. Did you state to Mr. Stabile that you wanted 10,000 men?—A. I did not see him personally.

Q. Not this year? Was he not in Montreal?—A. I saw his clerk here.

Q. When?—A. Two or three months ago.

Q. When did you first see him this year?—A. I am not sure; March or April.

Q. And before that when did you see Stabile?—A. I did not see Stabile last year.

Q. Did you see his clerk?—A. Yes.

Q. Did you tell him you wanted 10,000 men?—A. I do not remember.

Q. What are you beating about the bush for; answer straight. You know what I am asking you, and if I have got to stay here a month I will get an answer. Did you tell him you wanted 10,000 this year?—A. Never in my life.

Q. Be careful; did you or did you not?—A. I don't remember ever telling him that.

Q. Well, I want to refresh your memory. Do you remember Mr. Aiello?—A. Yes.

Q. When was he here?—A. I think in April.

Q. He is your agent in New York?—A. Yes, when I want men.

Q. Did you tell him you wanted 10,000 men?—A. I don't remember.

Q. That is as far as you can go; you may have said it?—A. If ever I told him I do not remember. I said there will be a lot of work; we will want a lot of men.

Q. Look out for a lot of men?—A. I don't remember.

Q. What did you tell him?—A. Nothing at all. When I will want men I will let him know.

Q. You told him you might require a large number. How many would you want? Did you mention 10,000?—A. I said a lot of men.

Q. What number did you say, 10,000?—A. I do not remember.

Q. Wont you go further?—A. I cannot say now.

Q. Is it possible that you may have said that?—A. Possibly, but I do not remember at all.

Q. Would you contradict a witness that would say you did?—A. Well, I would contradict him, because I never said that.

SESSIONAL PAPER No. 36b.

Q. Did you not tell him you would want 10,000 in the spring?—A. No.

Q. Will you contradict a witness who heard you say it?—A. I will tell what I know.

Q. And Stabile; did you ever tell him you wanted 10,000 men?—A. I do not remember.

Q. Has your counsel, your lawyer, told you to say, I don't remember when you are—A. Yes, sir.

Q. You ought to be very careful. I do not want anything but the truth. I do not want to have trouble with you?—A. My God, I am telling nothing but the truth.

Q. Your lawyer told you not to remember when you were asked some unpleasant questions?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. How many agents have you over in the United States besides Stabile and Aiello?—A. No agents at all.

Q. How many did you send over?—A. Send over?

Q. To the States last year?—A. May be four, five or six.

Q. Five or six?—A. Yes.

Q. To drum up Italians?—A. Yes.

Q. You know Mr. Marcucci?—A. I never saw him.

Q. Don't you know him?—A. No.

Q. When did Mr. Marcucci go over to Italy?—A. Marcucci? I don't know anything about him.

Q. Just think before you answer?—A. I don't know.

Q. I think you are wrong?—A. I don't know Marcucci.

Q. He was sent over from Canada to bring men out to this country?—A. I never sent him there.

Q. Did you ever hear of that before?—A. I never heard of this man went from Canada to Italy for men.

Q. You know Boconcelli?—A. Yes.

Q. Was Marcucci only employed?—A. I have heard him mentioned, but I do not know this man.

Q. We will find it out by degrees, by bringing both together we may get you to remember?—A. Perhaps.

Q. Then Marcucci did go from Canada?—A. I do not know, I think Boconcelli sent him.

Q. What did he send Marcucci for?—A. I don't know.

Q. Just think again, because we have to get it?—A. I do not remember.

Q. How many tickets did Boconcelli get from you to bring men out?—A. About 13 or 14 men, the books show it. (To Ganna). How many Ganna?

Q. Never mind Ganna. You were blaming him all day yesterday?—A. He is responsible, he is my foreman.

Q. How much did Boconcelli pay for the tickets?—A. \$36.65 from Naples to Montreal.

Q. What did he pay?—A. How much he paid who?

Q. Boconcelli?—A. He paid \$36.65.

Q. To bring them to Montreal?—A. \$30 from Naples to New York; \$6.65 from New York to Montreal.

Q. Did he buy tickets direct from Naples to Montreal?—A. Yes.

Q. Now what is your profit on each ticket that you sell?—A. In this company, I think \$7.

Q. For the \$30 ticket?—A. Well, I don't know two tickets or one.

Q. Look at your account for every \$30 ticket you get \$7?—A. I can give you an answer.

Q. Look at the \$30 ticket and tell me what commission you made?—A. \$7 commission on a whole ticket.

Q. How many tickets have you issued?—A. 14 tickets to Boconcelli.

4-5 EDWARD VII., A. 1905

Q. But you sold a great many to others than Boconcelli?—A. He cabled me.

Q. Who directed him to do all that work, you?—A. Yes.

Q. You instructed him?—A. For this work, yes.

Q. Then on a \$30 ticket you got \$7?—A. Yes, with this company.

Q. Boconcelli was a great friend of yours?—A. No friend of mine, no relation.

Q. Never mind the relations, you lent him money?—A. Yes.

Q. How much?—A. About \$380.

Q. So he was a friend of yours?—A. I knew the man, he was no friend.

Q. Now you sent Marcucci over to Italy for these tickets?—A. I know nothing about that. I heard he sent him.

Q. Heard of it after he bought the tickets. Marcucci came back again?—A. I never heard of it.

Q. You heard about it?—A. Boconcelli told me, that's all I know.

Q. How much did he charge these men?—A. I do not know.

Q. You heard?—A. I did not.

Q. What is the use of saying that, you told me you did, they charged those unfortunate men \$60 for every \$30 ticket sold. Boconcelli said it?—A. He probably did, I do not know whether he got \$60, \$65 or \$70.

Q. You are swearing to it. How much did he charge these men?—A. I think Boconcelli he said he was going to charge \$60.

Q. Now you have given money to Boconcelli, gave him \$100, took a \$125 note for it on demand?—A. That is all business. He asked me \$100, \$20.

Q. You sent him out as foreman?—A. I did that.

Q. One of the first men?—A. On July 16.

Q. He brought those Italians with him?—A. I don't know, I gave him \$35.

Q. He gave you a list of his men?—A. Yes.

Q. How was Boconcelli to get this \$60 from these men?—A. I don't know.

Q. Yes, you talked the matter over with him, you were to get money from him?—A. I lent him money to accommodate.

Q. It was to come out of his wages?—A. Yes, whenever he got them.

Q. That was understood?—A. Yes.

Q. These men were to pay their money out of their wages?—A. I had nothing to do with him.

Q. You loaned Boconcelli the money because he brought men out, sold tickets and got it out of their wages?—A. I only loaned him money.

Q. Is that correct?—A. No, every man he brought out for him.

Q. You know that he was getting plenty of money, because he was getting it out of these men?—A. I don't know.

Q. But you told me that?—A. My God, I never said that; I loaned money to Boconcelli, he needed money to settle; I don't remember stating.

Q. Please answer direct?—A. Well, I gave you—

Q. Don't say any more than what is necessary. Mr. Boconcelli got money?—A. \$380.

Q. The first note you took was for \$125, you paid \$100?—A. Probably.

Q. The second note was for \$65, how much did you pay him?—A. I don't remember.

Q. The third note was for \$190; how much did you pay him, \$140?—A. Probably.

Q. These moneys, you said, were to be recouped as soon as he got his wages from the Canadian Pacific Railway?—A. Whenever he earns it.

Q. He was also to receive money from these men brought out from Italy?—A. I don't know. He told me that they owed him an amount of money.

Q. And he was to get their wages to pay it?—A. I don't know.

Q. He told you?—A. He was looking to the men to pay the money.

Q. Because he was to get their wages, every man of them, was not that the case? He was to get their wages?—A. That is what he said.

Q. Now, Adolph Milo, how much money did you lend him?—A. I think \$400, something like that; I gave you a copy of the notes.

SESSIONAL PAPER No. 36b.

Q. Some small discount of 25 per cent?—A. Oh, yes, Your Honour.

Q. And there were several others you sent out as foremen; Del Vecchio \$107; he owed you \$107. In order to get a good position they had to owe you money. They had to come to you?—A. I am not obliged to lend money to anybody.

Q. These men borrowed money from you and went away?—A. When I find honest men I lend them money.

Q. I have no idea that you would lend it to anybody other than an honest man?—A. Nobody else.

Q. Gaillard \$70?—A. He is out.

Q. Anybody else?—A. I have no recollection.

Q. Memme?—A. Not a cent.

Q. Endorsed a note for you?—A. For Boconcelli.

Q. He is out too?—A. Yes.

Q. Any one else?—A. I don't remember. If you have them it is all right; I gave you my notes, you have them in your pocket.

Q. No, I have not. Anybody else gave you notes for the purpose of getting money and got it—Mighella?—A. He did not get it because his turn has not arrived. He got \$40, \$20 cash; yes, I gave him cash.

Q. You heard what he stated?—A. I do not care what he says.

Q. Has he gone out yet?—A. No, because of his law suit against me.

Q. That is the reason why there is trouble about the \$40?—A. He is trying to get the whole amount.

Q. Did you ever get orders on the Canadian Pacific Railway for wages?—A. None for any man.

Q. Do you ever collect wages from the Canadian Pacific Railway for the men?—A. I do not remember.

Q. Will you swear that you do not?—A. I do not know.

Q. That is what you swear to; be careful, because I have writing to this effect?—A. I do not remember.

Q. You have collected money for the men from the Canadian Pacific Railway?—A. I never collected a cent from the Canadian Pacific Railway.

Q. You never got an order from the men to get wages?—A. Not that I remember, but if you say so—

Q. You swear that you did not?—A. Yes, that is all I remember.

Q. You say, then, you have not under any circumstances collected money from the Canadian Pacific Railway for wages for the men?—A. Not for wages.

Q. Now, besides these foremen that you have mentioned, what others have you sent out?—A. (Ganna, give me the book.) I sent out on April 14 Vincenzo Cordasco, my brother; on April 23, Geo. Di Patrick; on May 13, I sent G. Aceto. I lent this man money.

Q. Where did he come from?—A. Montreal.

Q. Lives in Montreal?—A. Has got a wife here. Then I sent out on May 19 some men without a foreman. On June 2 I sent J. Campolongo; on June 3 I sent Emiliano Del Vecchio.

Q. How much did you pay him?—A. I did not give him a cent. On June 21 I sent L. Banchiro; I did not lend him anything. On June 23 I sent N. Maiorano, without giving him any money. June 29 V. Gagliardi. He went away and never paid me a cent. I lent him money because he had none.

Q. He got some money?—A. I gave him money and have not got any from him.

Q. How much did you lend him?—A. \$70 altogether.

Q. What is the amount of his note?—A. I think his note is \$70.

Q. You paid him?—A. I gave him \$2 or \$3 at a time; all cash.

Q. Did you charge him 25 per cent?—A. No, sir. On July 3, I sent Adolph Milo, and on July 5 Antonio Memme and some men without a foreman, seven on same day without interpreter, on July 8 without foreman and on July 10 men without foreman.

Q. Is that your signature, Mr. Cordasco?—A. Yes.

Q. What did you sign there for?—A. Some cheques, I think, some tickets; I believe it is to get a refund of money.

Q. Did you get that money for them?—A. I gave it to the men.

Q. That is a receipt from you dated December 10 to Mr. G. E. Burns for five time checks. So you did collect checks?—A. It must have been so.

Q. Checks, not tickets?—A. Probably I did. You can bring anything. I will admit that.

Q. You have to do it?—A. If I cannot remember I cannot say otherwise.

Q. Now, there are several checks besides those you received?—A. I do not remember.

Q. Do you not recollect getting money for the men?—A. I do not. Sometimes Mr. Skinner, sometimes Mr. Burns, gave me checks; they would forward me a check or two.

Q. I have some letters showing you liked to ask for money for the men?—A. I only put in a claim.

Q. You remember writing to them for money for wages?—A. Yes.

Q. And they paid you?—A. Sometimes I got check.

Q. For wages that these men were claiming as foremen?—A. Yes.

Q. Now, you made it appear there would be a large number of Italians wanted in connection with the Canadian Pacific Railway when you wrote these letters to the States I read yesterday?—A. I never authorized my book-keeper to say that I needed 10,000.

Q. Do you think you mentioned that so that he would understand what he was writing about?—A. No, sir. I just said I understood a lot of men, but no such number as 10,000.

Q. You got Mr. Ganna to do that?—A. Mr. Ganna did that by himself.

Q. You got Mr. Ganna to write these letters?—A. Not every one.

Q. Did you get Mr. Ganna to write them?—A. I got him to do my work.

Q. You instructed him to do that?—A. To write letters?

Q. Telling him what to put in letter?—A. Yes.

Q. You think he has put anything else in letters?—A. He did it.

Q. How can you prove he did it?—A. Because I know I never instructed that man for 10,000.

Q. You wrote yourself to Mr. Ludwig that you wanted many hundreds?—A. Last year.

Q. Not last year; last fall for this season of 1904. Hundreds of men wanted; you wrote that yourself?—A. Yes, it may be right.

Q. And you mentioned 10,000 to Mr. Aiello?—A. I don't think so.

Q. And Stabile. Did you mention to any of the Italians in your office that you wanted 10,000 men?—A. In conversation I may have said many would be wanted.

Q. Did you ever mention to the men that you wanted 10,000 men for the Canadian Pacific Railway this year?—A. No, sir. I never mentioned 10,000 to any one.

Q. You swear that positively?—A. Yes.

Q. All these ten letters are mythical—never came from you at all?—A. The letters came from these people, and I never answered them. They were told not to come to Canada unless I sent for them. In any case to send the \$1 and \$10 for foremen, the foremen to have 50 men.

Q. Now, as to that statement you put in this morning. How many of these men paid \$4 to you?—A. I don't remember.

Q. Look at your statement and see?—A. That is Ganna's.

Q. Never mind Ganna. He carries out your instructions does he not?—A. In some ways.

Q. He carries out your instructions?—A. Everything, unless the 10,000.

SESSIONAL PAPER No. 36b.

Q. How many paid?—A. There were registered 110 from New York. These gentlemen came to me and said I want to be registered. I said we cannot register any more, my books are full. They said never mind, we will wait our turn no matter. They came and paid me \$3 each man.

Q. Possibly \$1 already paid?—A. Yes.

Q. That made \$4?—A. Yes.

Q. How many men?—A. About 110.

Q. \$440?—A. No, no, your honour.

Q. I asked you how many men paid \$4, and you said 110?—A. The number registered was about 91.

Q. How many paid \$3?—A. About 200, perhaps more.

Q. I want to find out the true number?—A. I did not make the statement out.

Q. Mr. Ganna says here, Mr. Cordasco, that in November you registered 153, December 453, January 527, February 614, March 1,211, April 353, May 244, June 27, July 9; total 3,916. I will have to go over this statement, he knows of these. Have you not registered more than 9 in July?—A. I do not know.

Q. You got money also from men who paid at your house. Are their names in this?—A. Not unless they came to register.

Q. You got money from the men?—A. I did and I passed a paper to them.

Q. Will you show me that entry of men since the 1st July?—A. You have got that book in which that entry is.

Q. Do you not remember what money you received?—A. I do not know, Mr. Ganna has the book.

Q. Where is the book you made that entry in?—A. I have not got it, Mr. Ganna has.

Q. I want these small books?—A. You know some are entered here, some there. If they are entered in the book you can find them.

Q. You advertise in the *Corriere del Canada*?—A. Yes. they have one of my advertisements calling for men.

Q. Two or three advertisements in that paper?—A. Yes.

Q. How long have you been advertising in that paper?—A. Since about November.

Q. How long have you been advertising in this paper?—A. All the time since I gave money.

Q. You own it?—A. I do not.

Q. Do you not own the greater portion?—A. I paid up some money.

Q. Do you not own the greater portion of that paper?—A. Yes.

Q. And you object to be called proprietor?—A. Yes.

Q. You got paid for the advertising in that paper?—A. Yes, most of the people had to pay.

Q. You got that money?—A. Yes.

Q. You sent this paper to the men and the foremen?—A. I sent the paper to any men giving their advertisements.

Q. Will you give me a list of these men you sent it to?—A. Antonio Ganna has got the list. Let him show the list.

Q. There you go again, all on the shoulders of poor Mr. Ganna. How many did you send to Italy?—A. I do not know how many. Not many, except to my native town.

Q. What is the name of your town?—A. San Donato.

Q. How many did you send to your town?—A. About 25 or 30.

Q. A hundred?—A. Never.

Q. How long have you been sending them to your town?—A. Since I got a share in this paper.

Q. Since when?—A. Since November last year, 1903.

Q. The first you had anything to do with it?—A. Some time in November.

Q. How many did you send to other parts of Italy besides your own town?—A. I cannot say, Your Honour.

Q. About how many?—A. I don't know.

Q. How many did you get printed?—A. Sometimes 450.

Q. Did you send half to Italy?—A. Well, not quite, I suppose.

Q. About half?—A. 60.

Q. More than 60 to your own little village?—A. In my village I have many relatives.

Q. How many other villages did you send to?—A. 60 altogether besides my town.

Q. And you sent them every week?—A. Weekly, yes.

Q. You got people to write articles in this paper for you?—A. Yes to write articles sometimes.

Q. Scarrone wrote articles for you?—A. Yes.

Q. You asked him to do so?—A. No, sir, never.

Q. Never?—A. No, sir. Nobile wrote to this man.

Q. You suggested that he should use your name in connection with Canadian Pacific Railway work?—A. I do not know.

Q. You remember his writing an article for you?—A. Yes, I did not ask him to do it.

Q. The *Corriere del Canada* has a long labour article?—A. The paper has to be filled with something.

Q. What is the date of that (showing him paper)?—A. February 27, 1904.

Q. 'Italian labourers,' that is the heading. It reads :

'The working season is approaching under a very promising aspect. The principal companies have in the past few winter months estimated for a large amount of work, and will give employment to a more considerable number of men than in other years. The greatest and most sincere friend of the Italian labourers, Mr. Antonio Cordasco, of Montreal, the sole Italian agent for the most important railway company in the world, the Canadian Pacific Railway, proposes himself to give, in the coming season, work to as many labourers as may apply to him. What he proposes to do himself cannot but be realized owing to the enormous amount of work the Canadian Pacific Railway will do this year.

'This company, which, both for the extension of its lines and for its capital, is the first among railway companies, and it is considered also as the most important proprietor of land, owning 14,000,000 acres. It has always employed a larger number of labourers than any other company and with higher wages. Mr. Cordasco, the sole agent of the company, never betrayed the confidence that was put in him, not only fulfilling his duty as an agent, but assisting and protecting Italian labourers, and the good reputation he enjoys among the different companies and contractors is the best guarantee for the labourers employed through him.

'But the most splendid proof of that has been given by two thousand labourers, who in orderly parade, demonstrated a few days ago in Montreal that they did not forget what was done for them, and even if there were no other proof, this would be sufficient to show the philanthropic work of Antonio Cordasco.

'The spontaneous demonstration by two thousand men in a town where Italians are not counted by hundreds of thousands, was most flattering for the person honoured, and we cordially congratulate Mr. Antonio Cordasco.

'What we say is not flattery, for we very well know that Mr. Cordasco, as a business man, does not care for that. It is only to sympathise with him for what he does for the Italian labourers who come here ready to fight against any kind of adversity, and who find in Cordasco a father, a friend, who not only helps and protects them, but puts them in a position to provide for their families and their aged parents.

But as if all that was not enough, he has instituted a solid bank, through which anybody can send money to any part of Italy within a few days.

SESSIONAL PAPER No. 36b.

'We trust that the benevolent action of A. Cordasco will last for years and years, for the welfare of our labourers, and we cannot help to let his name be known to everybody, so that our compatriots will know when landing here that they will find a friend waiting for them.'

—A. I never ordered that.

Q. Be careful?—A. I never ordered this man to put in one line of that kind.

Q. I want you to be careful. If you are going too far I am going to stop you.—
A. You can get this man here; I never ordered this.

Q. Turn up the letter to Mr. Scarrone?—A. I never ordered him to send such an article.

Q. You read it in the paper?—A. Yes, when it came here.

Q. I suppose you approved of that article?—A. I laughed about it, that's all.

Q. Did he not send that article to you to be printed?—A. He sent it to be printed.

Q. And you saw it before it was printed?—A. Yes.

Q. You had it printed?—A. Yes.

Q. You sent that paper all over Italy?—A. Sixty in Italy besides my town.

Q. You wrote him on February 9?—A. That was the very day when I was in bed.

Q. You say :

'MONTREAL, February 9, 1904.

'Sig. L. P. SCARRONE,

55 Edward street, Toronto, Ont.

'I have received yours of the 7th inst., and I thank you very much for the kind words you wrote in your correspondence, of which I am proud. But I am sorry that I cannot publish this correspondence, as I do not wish the readers to know that I am the capitalist and administrator of the *Corriere del Canada*.

'If I should place this before the readers they will say that I sing my own praises, or that I order others to praise me; so you can (and I thank you for that) send articles on the work and solidity of the Canadian Pacific Railway, but do not tell the readers that I belong to this newspaper.

'You may say this privately to your advertisers and subscribers. I like the principle of your correspondence, which is well written, but you understand that it is no use to let the people know that I have a share in the newspaper for the above reason.

'If you send for Monday a good article on the work of the Canadian Pacific Railway, I shall publish it with the greatest of pleasure. I take the opportunity to thank you for the kind reception you gave to my traveller, Mr. Ianuzzi.

'Please tell me if you received the newspapers. I will be glad if you will confirm that you accept to represent the *Corriere del Canada* on the condition proposed.

'Please send me your cut, for I wish to introduce you to the readers by publishing it.

'Wishing you good business and hoping to receive on Monday an article to publish as correspondence from Toronto.

'Yours truly,

'ANTONIO CORDASCO.'

Q. You also wrote over to New York and got articles written there for you, did you not?—A. Yes.

Q. Who was the agent you wrote to in New York?—A. Mr. Aiello, or if in Italian, to be transplanted, and there is another fellow there, Loperari.

Q. Then you sent to New York to have the articles printed specially?—A. Yes, Your Honour. This was for these people who bring people from Italy. I sent the copy to all the business people of Canada.

Q. Is this the supplement you directed to be printed in New York?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. You sent to New York to have this done?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. You are censuring the Italian Immigration Aid Society pretty bad here?—A. Well, whatever Ganna put on I sent to New York.

Q. You read it before it went?—A. I read it once.

Q. You knew what was being put in?—A. Yes.

Q. What did you do with this supplement? Did you send it to Italy?—A. I cannot say if Ganna sent it.

Q. You had it printed in Italian?—A. Yes.

Q. Published as a supplement of the *Corriere del Canada*?—A. Yes.

Q. Forwarded to your subscribers?—A. Yes.

Q. And to Italy as well?—A. Not to Italy.

Q. This is the only copy of it?—A. Yes.

Q. Why did you do that do you know, was the Immigration Aid Society interfering with you?—A. Yes, everybody is interfering every day, ever since I began, two or three a day. Everybody has an eye on my business.

Q. Who wrote this for you?—A. Ganna sent a copy of this to Mr. Aiello, New York. He made this.

Q. And translated it into English for you?—A. Yes.

Q. Printed in New York or Montreal?—A. In New York.

Q. In Italian?—A. Did not want to send a copy there.

Q. You printed it in Italian in Montreal?—A. Yes.

Q. That is where it arose?—A. Yes.

Q. I will not read it; it is too long and too severe in its language. Those who want a copy can get it now?—A. I do not think there are any left now.

Q. How many copies did you have printed?—A. 200.

Q. You were to produce some of these accounts to-day; have you done so?—A. There is one left, and I gave it to Ganna. It is produced here, Your Honour.

Q. I see two or three before the first?—A. Any one you desire you can have it. I think that is all you asked for March 17. I do not know whether there are any more.

Q. Will you get the one for 1903?—A. Well, I will ask for it.

Q. You advertised in '*La Patria Italiana*'?—A. Yes, about a month or two ago; a couple of months ago.

Q. Did you put in advertisements for some time?—A. Yes.

Q. Some friends put one in?—A. Yes.

Q. When was that?—A. In the fall.

Q. Was that the one about the 10,000 men?—A. Yes, I remember he put in an advertisement asking for men.

Q. How many?—A. I do not know whether 1,000, 2,000 or 3,000.

Q. Go a little higher?—A. I do not remember.

Q. Who paid for this advertisement?—A. The Canadian Pacific Railway.

Q. Are you paying for these advertisements at all?—A. Every one at present.

Q. Yes?—A. Yes.

Q. Who pays for the advertisements in the *Corriere del Canada*?—A. I do not pay anything.

Q. You run it yourself?—A. They put them in the paper without charging me anything.

Q. You still have that paper for advertising?—A. Yes.

Q. Scarroni gets advertisements in Toronto?—A. He was to.

Q. And pay you the money?—A. I never got a cent.

Q. He took it out in writing articles for you?—A. He sent some articles.

Q. Wrote the articles and kept the money?—A. I never told him.

Q. That is the way?—A. I don't know.

Q. He never sent any money?—A. He may have sent cheque.

Q. There was an arrangement with Scarroni?—A. No arrangement at all.

Q. He was to get advertisements?—A. He promised that he would.

Q. He never did?—A. I never saw any.

Q. No Italian advertisements?—A. I do not know.

Q. You read the paper?—A. He did not pay for it.

Q. And you pay him for the articles?—A. I never got a cent.

SESSIONAL PAPER No. 36b.

- Q. He gets money for his work?—A. Yes.
- Q. People do not write for papers for nothing?—A. I don't know.
- Q. People do not write without getting paid for it?—A. I should say not.
- Q. Now, you had a good time in February and in April?—A. I had a very good time in bed with rheumatism, and people got together and said Cordasco our father to-day.
- Q. They wanted to get up a presentation; who got it up?—A. I never knew who did it.
- Q. Who got it up?—A. I heard it was the Italian foremen.
- Q. Foremen on the Canadian Pacific Railway?—A. Yes, sir.
- Q. When was that presentation to you?—A. In the month of January.
- Q. How many people were in the party?—A. I did not count; may have been 2,000 or 3,000.
- Q. You read over a list to your friends?—A. Probably I did.
- Q. Now, what did they do with it?—A. Well, I don't know. They took it away for signature, because I had been sick, but I got up.
- Q. You got up to get your crown?—A. Yes.
- Q. That is right?—A. Yes.
- Q. You keep it in a glass case?—A. That is right.
- Q. Who presented it to you?—A. Two Italian foremen.
- Q. Which?—A. Mollo and Pellegrino.
- Q. Pellegrino wanted to come here, I told him to come but he says he is afraid of you?—A. No danger, Your Honour.
- Q. Well, now you printed all about that in your paper?—A. I did not do it myself, other people did.
- Q. You got other people to do it?—A. May have
- Q. You arranged that these foremen should have their pictures put in a supplement?—A. Ganna suggested that.
- Q. Ganna again, he has enough to answer for without this last straw. You had the supplement printed, how many foremen's pictures were on it?—A. I do not remember, I think about 21 or 22.
- Q. Well, who is the centre figure?—A. I suppose it is Cordasco.
- Q. Well, look there?—A. That is myself, sure.
- Q. Cordasco, the acclaimed king of the workingmen?—A. That is what is stated.
- Q. Where is your crown there?—A. I suppose it is on the back.
- Q. The crown with the bouquet of flowers, where is the bouquet?—A. I did not ask.
- Q. No room for the basket?—A. No room for the basket.
- Q. This is yourself on the other side, there you are again in your royal robes?—A. Yes.
- Q. What is that under your picture?—A. 'Mr. Cordasco, proclaimed king of the workers.'
- Q. Whose names are all these?—A. I suppose some of the men who were there.
- Q. How many?—A. I don't know how many.
- Q. How many copies of this did you run off?—A. 400.
- Q. Where did you send them to?—A. I did not send them, I was sick at the time.
- Q. How many were sent off?—A. About 100 in the office.
- Q. How many went to Italy?—A. Not one.
- Q. Sure?—A. I cannot say. Why is Ganna not here?
- Q. Ganna is not concerned?—A. Ganna got four.
- Q. These are all foremen on the first page?—A. Yes, Your Honour.
- Q. Did you send one of these with each of your weekly papers to Italy?—A. I do not remember, I was in bed, I did not send any.
- Q. You did not send some of these to your little village?—A. I may have done it, I was very sick, troubled with rheumatism.

4-5 EDWARD VII., A. 1905

Q. That was in your foot?—A. Yes, very bad, Your Honour.

Q. When was this advertisement in 'La Patria Italiana' calling for 10,000 men published?—A. I did not put in 10,000.

Q. You did not state that the C.P.R. wanted that number?—A. No, 2,000 or 3,000.

Q. What time was it?—A. I do not know, August or September.

Q. You remember Dini's advertisement in 'La Patria Italiana'?—A. I remember that.

Q. There were two advertisements?—A. Whatever you say.

Q. Calling for a lot of labour, had lot of work, etc. Is that one, you can tell?—A. There are three here, Your Honour.

Q. What was about the number?—A. Mr. Dini stated he wanted 10,000 for next spring, he must have Italian labourers, he was representing some important construction companies.

Q. Do you remember this. (Showing him paper)?—A. Yes, I do remember that was done, my bookkeeper told me he would write that for me.

Q. This is how it reads :—

‘IMPORTANT NOTICE.’

‘To the army of the pick and shovel :

‘Italian labourers, bosses and under bosses do not show a double face (do not be false) but only one (be true) have a soldier's courage. Apply to the elegant and solid Italian Bank of Antonio Cordasco if you do not want to weep over your misfortunes in the spring when the shipments of men will begin.

‘Do not believe that with your dollar or dollars you will be able to get work like your comrades who have been faithful. No, we will inspect our books and money orders and our passage ticket books, and those who will not have their names entered in them in their despair tear out their hair and will call Mr. Cordasco, lordship, Don Antonio (Don before anybody's name is a special mark of respect), let me go to work. No, never, will be answered to them, go to those through whom you sent your money away and so on.

‘A forewarned is a forearmed man.

‘By order.’

Q. A forewarned man can be saved by your agency?—A. Yes, that is it.

Q. Who ordered that?—A. Ganna did it; he is the one to answer to it. He showed that to me, and I said to go ahead.

Q. You can read that?—A. In Italian.

Q. You knew of that?—A. Yes.

Q. You had that in your paper?—A. Yes.

Q. On February 20 last?—A. He came to see me last February.

Q. That was put in your paper on February 20 last?—A. Yes.

Q. You do not allow everything in your paper?—A. No.

Q. And you do not let everything go in your paper if not in your writing? And this is your writing?—A. I think so.

Q. Now, here is another advertisement. Is that your advertisement?—A. I think that was in 'La Patria Italiana.'

Q. I will read it for you:—

‘Tel. Main 2720.

‘A. CORDASCO

*‘Sole Italian Agent of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company and other Companies,
‘375 St. James Street, Montreal.*

‘NOTICE.

‘If you want to work on railways, canals, water works and other kinds of work of long duration and guaranteed—payment sure—at the price of \$1.25 and \$2.

SESSIONAL PAPER No. 36b.

'If you want to be respected and protected either on the work or in case of accident or other annoyance, which may be easily met,

'Apply personally, or address letters or telegrams to

'ANTONIO CORDASCO,

'441 St. James St., Montreal.

'Sole agent, who may find with every security and guaranteed employment for labourers and foremen who know how to do their duty. He is fully trusted by all the greatest companies and contractors, who continually request his services.

'Whoever has claims against any company, Mr. Cordasco is the only man who can succeed to have the said claims settled promptly and profitably.'

Q. When was that published?—A. A year ago.

Q. Who paid for that advertisement?—A. Cordasco paid.

Q. Which advertisement did the Canadian Pacific Railway pay for?—A. I do not know; just paid for one advertisement for some time.

Q. Which one was that?—A. That was last year, when short of men.

Q. Now, there were some ten men that came across from Italy in the spring who signed a declaration that they were given your cards by an agent in Italy. Do you remember that?—A. I do not know anything about that.

Q. You heard about it?—A. I did not hear it.

Q. Ten Italians?—A. I did not hear it. Read the declaration. I have not read it yet.

Q. Probably not. Your Mr. Ganna states he wrote one?—A. Did he?

Q. Yes; the cards were handed to them before getting on the boat?—A. I do not remember quite what was said. I do not know who signed it, nor do I know where they got the card.

Q. Do you know the Donor Immigration Company? They had an office here; there were two brothers named Schenker?—A. Yes.

Q. Are they in Montreal now?—A. I have not seen them for some time.

Q. How long ago?—A. I did not meet any of them for two months probably.

Q. Were they conducting business this spring?—A. I do not personally know.

Q. Did you hear they were?—A. I did not hear anything.

Q. They have left the city?—A. I cannot say. Your Honour. They may be here or away; I do not know.

Q. What kind of a business did they conduct?—A. They came and began business, but did not remain long.

Q. How long ago was that?—A. Some years ago.

Q. Have they gone out of business?—A. I think they are stopped altogether.

Q. Had to give up business?—A. Yes.

Q. Why?—A. They opened a nice bank, but did not continue.

Q. They were committing frauds on people?—A. I do not know.

Q. What reason?—A. I have no reason to give.

Q. Don't you think that was the reason; it was pretty well known?—A. I don't know.

Q. You know what others are doing?—A. I do not know why they gave up.

Q. You will find out and let me know this afternoon. You can come back at 2.30.

Mr. BURNS re-examined.

By the Commissioner :

Q. Do you remember whether Cordasco received moneys for labourers at any time from the Canadian Pacific Railway?—A. Yes.

Q. From time to time?—A. Yes, for labourers he had engaged during 1901.

Q. Has he lately?—A. Not since 1902.

Q. Do you know whether he has or not?—A. From the Canadian Pacific Railway?

Q. Yes.—A. He has received none whatever.

Q. Can you tell the amount?—A. Yes.

Q. How are moneys paid?—A. By cash or cheque. Through these vouchers. A large amount by cheque, a small amount by cash.

Q. You do not deal with moneys at all?—A. No, sir.

Q. Do you receive any moneys yourself from the Canadian Pacific Railway?—A. I do.

Q. For what purpose?—A. I have received money from the Canadian Pacific Railway for secret work.

Q. What do you do with the money?—A. I give account of it.

Q. You deposit it?—A. I do not, I draw only sums I require.

Q. You do not deposit with any bank?—A. I have a small bank account.

Q. How many banks do you deposit in?—A. One, the Sovereign Bank.

Q. For how long?—A. Well, I have only opened one account about a month ago, but the other account was in the name of my wife for domestic purposes.

Q. How long ago?—A. First date a year ago.

Q. You make deposits?—A. She makes deposits.

Q. You give her the money?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Besides the money for secret purposes, do you receive any money?—A. I have my salary.

Q. Paid by cheque?—A. Yes.

Q. Altogether?—A. Yes.

Q. No other moneys?—A. Well, I have my regular expense account.

Q. That is paid by cheque?—A. Yes, as a rule.

Q. Any other moneys?—A. No, that is all.

Q. These are deposited in your bank account?—A. No.

Q. The cheques are not?—A. The reason I opened a bank account was to keep track.

Q. Formerly they were deposited to your wife's bank account?—A. Not through her account, her account contains money necessary for our domestic arrangements.

Q. Will you kindly bring your bank accounts this afternoon if you can get them?—A. All right.

Mr. HONORE GERVAIS, M.P., being sworn.

By the Commissioner :

Q. We thought possibly you would have been able to come on Thursday morning?—A. Well, I was detained in Ottawa attending to my parliamentary duties, but as soon as possible I came back to Montreal. I just reached here this morning by five o'clock train, and I was notified that you wished to examine me in connection with this Italian labour inquiry.

By Mr. Mowat :

Q. You are a member of the Dominion House of Commons, Mr. Gervais?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Representing one of the divisions in Montreal?—A. M.P., representing the Division of St. James, of Montreal.

Q. Did it come to your notice that there was a large influx of Italian labourers in May last?—A. Yes, sir; this was brought to my attention by some people who were interesting themselves for the Italian labourers.

Q. Some prominent Italians?—A. Mr. Catelli, a large manufacturer of Montreal.

Q. He is a son of the former Consul General?—A. Yes, Chevalier Catelli.

SESSIONAL PAPER No. 36b.

Q. Did you feel that the situation was an embarrassing one?—A. It was very very embarrassing, both for the poor labourers who had been brought here as well as for the labourers of Montreal.

Q. From the public standpoint?—A. Yes.

Q. Did you take any steps to have the matter remedied?—A. As soon as the matter was brought to my attention by Mr. Catelli, my personal observations and the newspaper articles, I went to Ottawa and I spoke about this influx of Italian labourers coming without a moment's notice to our shores. I had some interviews with the Right Hon. Sir Wilfrid Laurier, Sir William Mulock, Mr. Sifton and Mr. Smart, the Deputy Minister of the Interior, and asked these gentlemen if something could not be done to help us along. Well, there was no money at the disposal of the government at the time to help these labourers.

Q. No money for such a purpose?—A. It had not been voted by parliament, but they said we will try to help as much as possible, and if some public work can be found for them we will be glad to give them work. In the meantime I saw in the newspapers of Montreal that the Italian society had taken the matter in hand and were helping their fellow countrymen.

Q. Have you in the course of your public life had to consider the question of wages paid to labourers in this city?—A. Yes.

Q. What, in your opinion, would be the result on resident labourers in Montreal of the bringing in of such a large number of labourers?—A. I would say that it would be most detrimental to the interests of the resident labourers, because having to accept fixed salaries they have to make a scale that would cover the cost of living, and by the coming of these foreign labourers in such large numbers, without a moment's warning to our shores, the scale of wages is destroyed because there are too many men willing to work at reduced rates, and thus our resident labourers are bound to suffer. Accordingly, on account of the sudden fall or decrease in wages generally, it is most detrimental to the workmen of Canada, to the workmen of Montreal, that at any moment some 10,000 men shall be thrown on our shores and come in competition with our workmen resident in Montreal. That I say should be stopped by an amendment to our immigration laws or otherwise.

Q. So that no greater number should be brought in here than the demand requires?—A. Yes; and the Labour Department of Canada or the Immigration Department should be given the necessary authority to check such a sudden influx of foreign labourers.

By the Commissioner:

Q. Do you know what agencies were at work bringing in this large number of Italians during the present spring, Mr. Gervais?—A. Well, I would not like to hazard an opinion about the names of persons who are instrumental in causing such an influx of foreign labour, but I may say that the whole job was engineered by some speculators who wanted to bring to Canada any amount of men for the sake of reaping so much by the payment of commissions from some of the interested companies.

Q. I think the evidence fully bears you out?—A. It is the general opinion in Montreal that many foreign labourers are brought here for the sake of earning commission moneys and profit for individuals who are well known.

Q. Does the Provincial Government bring out immigrants from Italy?—A. No.

Q. Does the Dominion Government?—A. No. The class of immigrants that Canada wants to be brought here are picked up by the proper officials of the Dominion Government, by the proper agent of our government and I do not recognize the right of any private individual to speak in the name of Canada to the foreign labourers and induce them to come here. We have our proper officials who will not deceive the foreign labourer, and, consequently, I would say that these private enterprises bringing poor men to Canada should be checked. Special legislation should be incorporated defining those who shall have the right to represent Canada abroad, because the good name of Canada and the credit of Canada may be imperilled.

By Mr. Mowat:

Q. Have you given this subject enough attention to say definitely what in your opinion such amendments to the law should be?—A. Well, yes. We should have some clauses inserted in our immigration laws, for example, empowering our quarantine officials to examine what is the standing of the immigrants coming to Canada, and before they have been brought to Canada and rejecting those who are unfitted and at the same time making it necessary for the speculators who have been deceiving these people to send them back.

By the Commissioner:

Q. The immigration acts should be amended?—A. That is what I think.

Adjourned until 2:30.

MONTREAL, QUE., July 23, 1904.

COURT HOUSE, 2.30 P.M.

The Commission resumes.

COUNT FRANCESCO MAZZA, being sworn.

By Mr. Mowat:

Q. What is your first name Count?—A. Francesco.

Q. Are you Consul General in Canada for His Majesty the King of Italy?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. How long have you been in that position?—A. I took my position the 9th August, 1901.

Q. Have you had previous experience in the consular service?—A. Yes, I have held very important positions.

Q. Is it part of your duty to attend to the welfare of Italians?—A. It is my duty.

Q. Were you aware of the sudden influx of Italian labourers in May last?—A. Yes.

Q. Was it reported to you or did you learn how many were without employment here at one time, in round numbers?—A. I think 400 or 500 without food here.

Q. Have you anything to do with the bringing of these people into the country?—A. Myself.

Q. Yes?—A. I have in my power to regulate the immigration of Italians here and my duty is to prevent as much as possible the bringing in of more than necessary.

Q. Not more than necessary?—A. Yes, then my duty is to protect the immigrants and not permit immigrants to come if there is no work for them.

Q. Where you in a position to ascertain what was the reason for this excessive immigration?—A. It seems that persons interested in having immigrants come to Canada so as to employ them have written to Italy and sent advertisements in order to have people come here.

Q. That is not with your approval or with the approval of the Italian Government?—A. On the contrary, it is in opposition to the wishes of the Italian Government and the wish of the Consulate.

Q. Do you yourself take any steps to bring over immigrants?—A. Yes; I take steps in writing the government telling them not to allow people to come here in very great numbers, and after, when I saw that people were coming here in great numbers, I was obliged to wire to my government in order to give instructions to forbid immigration into Canada, and I wired twice.

SESSIONAL PAPER No. 36b.

Q. You cabled twice to your government to do what they could to prevent this immigration?—A. Yes, to give advice not to come into Canada to prevent by all means the coming to Canada of these people.

Q. Did you go to see the mayor of Montreal to confer with him, Mayor Laporte?—A. Personally I have not conferred with the mayor, but our Italian society that was instituted here, and was subsidized by the Italian government, has taken steps. Its president has taken steps to see the mayor of Montreal, in order to make provisions for all our immigrants here without food and without means of living, because the Italian Immigration Society had spent too much money without authorization.

Q. Had spent too much money?—A. Too much money. We had money for establishing an immigrant house of refuge.

Q. In Windsor street?—A. Yes.

Q. Is the work of the Italian Immigration Aid Society carried on with your approval? Do you approve of it?—A. Certainly.

Q. What means do you suggest to the Commissioner to prevent this abuse that has arisen. What is your suggestion, what do you say is necessary so that this thing cannot occur again?—A. I think it will stop if all these agencies are prevented from making a business of bringing Italian immigrants here. Their work should be stopped. That is my opinion.

Q. Have you made representations to that effect to the Italian government?—A. I have.

Q. Do you know whether the Dominion government has agencies in Italy to encourage immigrants to come?—A. I do not know. They certainly send many advertisements. I do not know if the Canadian agents have sent out these, but I know very well interested people here have sent advertisements and letters.

Q. These private agencies?—A. Yes.

Q. Then it is your opinion that there should be some system to prevent indiscriminate immigration?—A. I told you my idea is not to allow these private individuals to make a business of that, and to prohibit such action.

Q. Is it your idea that it should only be done through an incorporated society?—A. Certainly my opinion is that.

Q. Was the class of these people that arrived here such as to require protection, or were they able to look out for themselves?—A. They were able to look out for themselves, take care of themselves, but they have very limited means of living, having been here so long without lodgings and food.

Q. Are they people who look to the government to act as a class or act individually?—A. I cannot perfectly understand your question.

Q. Are they people that act as a class altogether or act as individuals, are they accustomed to take responsibility for themselves without coaching?—A. I cannot answer your question.

By Mr. Internoscia:

Q. The Court does not understand the purpose of the question: Are you familiar with the work of Signor Candori, was he brought from Italy for this purpose?—A. No, he was here and the society under which Candori is employed, the Italian Immigration Aid Society, has been incorporated in Canada.

Q. Are you satisfied with his conduct of the office?—A. I am satisfied, and I think all the committee, or the great part of the committee of the Italian Immigration Society is very well satisfied with his services.

By the Commissioner:

Q. As consul you report to the home government on the condition of the immigrants from time to time?—A. Yes, certainly.

Q. What is the nature of your report to your government on the condition of the immigrants?—A. I report the conditions of the immigrants from my observation and what their status is.

4-5 EDWARD VII., A. 1905

Q. Do you report on the advisability of sending out immigrants to this country ?
A. Certainly. I reported that two years ago that Canada was a country where well regulated immigration could be directed.

Q. Have you reported that there should be a large immigration into Canada in 1904 ?—A. Not at all, I reported in 1903 that if the Grand Trunk Pacific was to be constructed it would mean the employment of a great number of Italians in Canada, but when I saw that the Grand Trunk Pacific was not to be constructed, I advised that it would not be possible to employ a large number of people here.

Q. When did you make that report again ?—A. I think the commencement of this year, and I advised the government to make provision to prevent people coming here in winter, because in the winter time they commenced to come here.

Q. How long does it take to come over from Italy to Montreal ?—A. To Montreal, I think one month or less.

Q. Are your reports published ?—A. No, I do not think exactly in print, but information is taken there for immigrants and the *Bulletino d'Immigrazione* published several advertisements telling people not to come because there were too many Italians in Canada already.

Q. When was that published ?—A. In April or May.

Q. Of this or last year ?—A. This year.

Q. Had your report to the government anything to do with the bringing out of the large number of immigrants this year ?—A. Yes, I have asked the government to make inquiry into the cause. We had a complaint from several Italians here who were brought here by letter of Mr. Cordasco.

Q. You complained to the home government about that letter ?—A. I complained and I requested my government to make inquiries in order to assure me if that letter existed. We had a complaint here, the immigration society here had received a complaint, and I transmitted it to my government.

Q. What I asked was this : Would you think your reports to the Italian government brought out any men ?—A. On the contrary.

Q. What efforts did you make to find employment for these men when they came here ?—A. I sent several times to the C.P.R., and saw Sir Thomas Shaughnessy and Mr. McNicol, not only for the men here, but also for a great number of men at Michel, Alberta, B.C.

Q. What success ?—A. I succeeded in obtaining employment of almost all the people who were in this place.

Q. When ?—A. I think in May.

Q. All these here ?—A. Yes.

Q. Who employed them ?—A. The C.P.R.

Q. Through whom did they employ them ?—A. I do not know the contractor. I do not exactly know, through the president of the Winnipeg or Pembroke Western Railway, I do not know.

Q. Were they compelled to register with Mr. Cordasco, in his office, before going out ?—A. I do not know, these people were at Michel.

Q. Do you remember receiving a letter of which this is a copy ?—A. Yes, I received it, and I received other letters from that direction, but after having inquired I found that these people were all employed.

Q. This letter is dated May 6, 1904, and is addressed to yourself as Italian Consul General. It reads :—

'MONTREAL, May 6, 1904.

'COUNT MAZZA,

'Italian Consul General, Montreal.

'DEAR SIR,—Our Vice-President has requested me to communicate to you the following telegram, which has been received from W. Whyte, Second Vice-President at Winnipeg, dated May 6.

SESSIONAL PAPER No. 36b.

'Italians (Crow's Nest Pass have been offered work at \$1.50 per day, our regular rate, which they do not care to accept. We cannot wait for them and in the meantime filling orders with Galicians from north.

'I might add that I have telephoned the contents of this telegram to Mr. Can-dori, of the Italian Immigration Society.

'Yours truly,

'GEO. E. BURNS.'

A. Yes, I received that.

Q. What was the result of that telegram?—A. The result was that I demanded explanations from some one there and understood by letter that these people had gone to work.

Q. All went to work?—A. Yes.

Q. No further complaints about them?—A. No.

Q. Who superintends the emigration from Italy in Italy?—A. We have inspectors of emigration, Italians, who see that the new law for immigrants is carried out. We have an agent at Rome, the Minister at the Foreign Office, and there is another agent at Genoa, one at Palermo and one at Naples. These are inspectors of emigration who regulate the emigration going out of Italy.

Q. Are there any places where the inspectors cannot prevent them from going?—A. Yes, when they are not admissible they go to some other port.

Q. You remember a place called Chiasso?—A. Yes.

Q. A number have come from there?—A. Yes, that is clandestine emigration.

Q. There are no inspectors there?—A. No. They take the train for Switzerland and for Germany and pass by this place.

Q. You know what steamship lines run there?—A. Not from there, they take the steamships from Antwerp, from Liverpool or other northern ports of Europe.

Q. They go through Chiasso to America?—A. Yes.

Q. And come through England to Canada?—A. Yes.

Q. The government cannot control them?—A. No. Because they get their passport to go to Switzerland and once they get to Chiasso they are beyond the control of the Italian government.

Q. Is Chiasso on the borders between Switzerland and Italy?—A. Yes. It is in Switzerland.

Q. How near to Italy?—A. Very near over the St. Gothard tunnel.

Q. There is a bulletin issued by the Italian Immigration Aid Society of Montreal?—A. Yes.

Q. It sets forth the attitude of the Italian Government towards emigration to Canada; do you remember that Count?—A. I do not remember exactly.

Q. That is what the report says, that is correct. (Shows bulletin to Count)?—A. Yes, it says that Canada was a country good for Italian immigration.

Q. I will read from the first annual report as published in that bulletin: 'The Italian Government, in fact the whole of Italy, has seen, within the last few years, that Canada is the only country in the world that promises much to labourious immigrants; it is the only country that, on account of its being very extensive and not thickly populated, will, for many years, be able to receive a great number of Europeans who may find themselves obliged to emigrate; it is the only country that, while it enjoys the advantages of the strength of a powerful empire, it engages its men only in the development of trade, commerce and agriculture. Having seen that Canada is, in other words, the Eldorado of the present day, the Italian Government wanted to see also in what way the Italian emigration to Canada could be better encouraged, and, to be sure of seeing it, they had to send in the person of Chev. E. Rossi, one who was competent not only to see but to judge.

'Chev. E. Rossi and Count Mazza, the Royal Italian Consul General, have immediately perceived that in order to encourage Italian immigration to Canada it was

necessary to protect it, and to protect it it was necessary to interest, in such a protection, not a private person but a corporation composed of men who already feel themselves above personal interests. This society was thus formed, and while it is formed according to the laws of Canada it also enjoys the benefit of the Italian law of emigration, inasmuch as this society is liberally subsidized by the Italian Government.'

Q. That sets forth correctly the attitude of the Italian Government towards Canada?—A. Yes; to encourage people to come at the proper time when there is work, not to come here in too great numbers.

Q. Now, is there anything else you would like to state?—A. No I have not anything else.

The COMMISSIONER.—I thank you very much for your attendance.

Mr. BURNS re-called.

By the Commissioiner:

Q. Did you bring in your bank account, Mr. Burns?—A. Yes. (Hands to Commissioner.)

Q. I will not examine you just now. I will look through it.

Mr. CORDASCO re-examined.

By the Commissioner:

Q. In your evidence this morning you stated that there were only nine men registered in July?—A. I stated that is all besides the two books you asked for.

Q. Only nine registered in July?—A. I know about the books.

Q. You want to know what you are swearing to, that is all. Will you give me the names of the nine registered in July?—A. I don't know the names.

Q. We will find them out (showing him book). Which are the names?—A. There were more than nine.

Q. More like 300; here are some registered by you?—A. He gave me nine registered in July. Will you please have Ganna show. Here is Gaetano Ramondelli, Gaetano Caramagno, Sebastiano Caramagno, Gaetano Bramato, Giustino Ramondelli, Concezio De Lucia.

Q. That is only six?—A. Guiseppe De Lucia, Angelo Bellistri, Rosario Sigari.

Q. That is nine. Read more that have registered since; give me all that have registered since then?—A. All in this book.

Q. Q. What is the number in that book?—A. 34.

Q. And you know perfectly well that you have registered more than nine in this month? Why did you say nine?—A. You did not understand my words.

Q. I asked you in July. I find that up to the 7th you registered 68; on the 7th July alone you registered 64?—A. Whatever Your Honour says.

Q. Why give a statement that there were only nine in July when there were near 300?—A. I did not understand that at all; I knew there were a great many more.

Q. You want to be careful, there is no use denying the facts?—A. I know it is a mistake.

Q. I will find you out if it takes a month. I want you to tell me how many registered in July?—A. Some registered twice; paid \$3 one time and \$1 before.

Q. How many paying \$4 have you?—A. About 110 or 115.

Q. You will have to go higher?—A. There is Mr. Ganna.

Q. Never mind Mr. Ganna, you are swearing to it. You will have to go higher than that?—A. I must go according to my bookkeeper. Let me see, 186.

Q. Go higher still?—A. What is the last number?

Q. You have another book besides this?—A. There are four more. There are 200 here and 64 in that book.

Q. You are getting nearer now?—A. It is not my fault; my friend here is in fault.

Q. Now you see there are over 204 who have paid \$4, have been registered twice. Have they got work yet?—A. No.

Q. You got their \$4?—A. Yes; I am ready to give them back.

SESSIONAL PAPER No. 36b.

Q. You got \$3 from each of these between the 5th and 12th of July. You got over \$600 from these men?—A. If they want the money back I will give it to them to-night.

Q. You never give anything back?—A. I am willing to reimburse any man who may ask for it.

Q. Mr. Cordasco, how much money have you received from all those you have employed?—A. Ganna has got the figures; he has done my work and I will take what he says.

Q. He does not know everything, because you remember on the 1st July you had some thousand dollars that you never accounted for?—A. I gave an account. Where is that little book, Ganna, in which I made that entry?

Q. You got a lot of money you never told Ganna about at all?—A. I swear.

Q. Don't say that; I know better. On the 1st you were paid for registering 17 men, each man paid two dollars in advance?—A. I don't know.

Q. Now you know you never told Mr. Ganna about receiving \$34 until I told him?—A. I told Mr. Ganna the next day, I forgot to register.

Q. That is your excuse and it is no excuse at all. Now, Mr. Ganna did not know this?—A. I forgot to tell him.

Q. You got money at your office?—A. And put names in book.

Q. You told me then and Mr. Ganna for the first time, so that there would be no misunderstanding?—A. That is all right.

Q. Not very much all right you know. Now there is your cheque account to produce?—A. The check notes between Boconcelli and Mello; I have them ready for you.

Q. How many notes have you there; have you one to—A. I got all the pack.

Q. To Graminique who had charge of a party?—A. That man was ill; I loaned him money to get better.

Q. How much?—A. \$50 only; the note for \$50 is there.

Q. How much money did you get from him?—A. \$50 I did not charge that man one cent; I have known him for 17 years.

Q. Envelopes printed especially to send to Italy?—A. Not to send over to Italy, but to give to Italian labourers.

Q. To go over to Italy?—A. They are sent to Italy.

Q. Why did you put the Italian crest upon them without authority?—A. I did not do it myself; Ganna did it.

Q. Poor Ganna. You have that crest on all your letter paper and envelopes, even upon that banquet invitation?—A. All through Ganna; I was sending nobody.

Q. You were not sick in bed that time?—A. I was all right that time.

Q. Who printed that?—A. The Canadian Printing Company.

Q. Why did you have different colours?—A. No meaning.

Q. Some went to one province some to another?—A. Just the same change of paper merely.

Q. You got no authority to allow you to print the coat of arms on your envelopes?—A. I am ready to take it off, if Your Honour wishes.

Q. Was not that done for the purpose of making these poor immigrants think that you were connected with the Italian Government and that you were really the king of labour?—A. I will cut them off. Of course I asked Ganna; he is not responsible, it is not a full crown.

Q. How much do you give Ganna for all this work?—A. Just his salary, \$40 per month. When I was here before I told you he was being paid too little.

Q. Now there is the Rev. Father D. A. Rocca?—A. Yes, that is a priest, a friend of mine in Boston.

Q. You wrote him on the 22nd March, 1904?—A. I think I wrote him.

Q. In that letter you say: 'But I will tell you in short that Messrs. Stabile & Co., of Boston, are bankers of unlimited reputation and you ought to know these gentlemen

4-5 EDWARD VII., A. 1905

who supply me with men with the utmost punctuality and never heard any complaint. Fifteen days ago Mr. Pistorino was here, to fix for the shipment of the men.'

Q. Who is Pistorino?—A. He is Mr. Stabile's bookkeeper.

Q. You arranged with him fifteen days before the 22nd March, that is the 7th March, for the shipment of men?—A. I told him; he came to make arrangements.

Q. Yes; do you deny that this man came?—A. I misunderstood.

Q. How many men did you tell him to ship; how many did you order?—A. I did not give an order for one.

Q. You told him you wanted men. You said: 'Fifteen days ago Mr. Pistorino was here to fix for the shipment of the men.' How many men?—A. I did not give an order for any men.

Q. How many men?—A. I spoke of the men from Canada, and anything I can do for them I will.

Q. You did not tell him how many?—A. No, sir.

Q. 10,000?—A. I do not remember if I stated that.

Q. That does not bring anything back to your recollection?—A. I do not remember whether I mentioned 1,000, 2,000 or 10,000.

Q. Who is your dear friend Raffaele?—A. I have lots of such names.

Q. You have so many of them?—A. Raffaele?

Q. Look at your letter and you can tell?—A. (Looking at letter.) I do not remember Raffaele; I do not know this man.

Q. If you will read the letter?—A. Yes. (Reads letter.) I think this letter went to Italy; this is my brother-in-law.

Q. What did you tell him there?—A. I told him I had another child.

Q. That is interesting?—A. And that Italians made a big demonstration.

Q. What did you tell him about that?—A. That a big demonstration was made and that a card was printed to state that I was one of the good men to look after the Italians.

Q. You stated that?—A. I said the Italians stated that. They cried in the streets: 'Viva Antonio Cordasco benefattore degli Italiani.'

Q. Is that what the people said to you?—A. Also I told him they were so nice to me; gave me crown and nice bouquet of flowers.

Q. How many thousand did you tell him there were there?—A. I told him there were 2,000 or more in the street.

Q. Everyone in the street?—A. These men.

Q. At the time of that demonstration, their names were in your books?—A. I mentioned they were in the street with me in that demonstration.

Q. You say in your letter: 'I have nearly two thousand men entered in my books and any time you like to come I will send you the ticket.'

Q. You got your friend to send men over the sea?—A. Not one.

Q. Send him your card?—A. Yes, one or two.

Q. More than one or two?—A. I don't think so.

Q. What were you sending them over for?—A. To show my card.

Q. To whom?—A. To my brother-in-law.

Q. For immigrants?—A. He is an Italian. No connection with an agency or anything of that kind.

Q. You say that you did not draw the men's wages?—A. I do not know whether it was wages, but everything was given to the people.

Q. Can you read that, Mr. Cordasco?

'MONTREAL, November 4, 1903.

'We the undersigned, signed with a cross mark as we cannot write or read, both of us, we authorize Mr. A. Cordasco to draw our wages for work done in the month of October last, 1903, and we both authorize the Canadian Pacific Railway Company to pay over our wages to Mr. Cordasco of 375 St. James street.'

SESSIONAL PAPER No. 36b.

'Attached you will find our No. 13 & 13 in red thick paper and this money will be shipped by Mr. A. Cordasco to our address, Aiello, Calabria Province, Cosenza. In faith as above we both signed with cross.

'ANTONIO FERRESI FU SALVATORE,
'VICENZO MARELLO FU LORONZO.

Witnesses, A. GANNA,
LUIGI PATRONE.'

A. I never received any money on this.

Q. This was given to you on November 4, 1903, by men not able to read nor write?—A. I did not get any money.

Q. They authorized you Antonio Cordasco to draw their wages?—A. Yes.

Q. You know how much the wages amounted to?—A. I do not think, I did not see any.

Q. But they attached their wages tickets?—A. There were some tickets.

Q. Where are the tickets?—A. Can I ask Mr. Ganna. There was a piece of paper then with two tickets.

Q. You remember where these tickets are?—A. We did not get money for this. They can be found any time.

Q. Where?—A. With the paymaster of the C.P.R.

Q. Did they go to Italy?—A. Yes.

Q. Have they returned?—A. No.

Q. How much money was claimed?—A. I do not remember.

Q. Did you not call to collect?—A. I sent Ganna once or twice to paymaster. There was no money, no use for me to go.

Q. I would like to see these tickets?—A. Yes, Your Honour with pleasure.

Q. How much do you get for selling C.P.R. tickets to men?—A. \$2.

Q. What tickets do you sell to the men?—A. Just for the Atlantic service, the steamships of the Atlantic service.

Q. Between what points?—A. I suppose Liverpool and St. John, London and other points.

Q. Do you know Sabatino Sgamurra, he came over here?—A. I never saw him.

Q. Is he not one of your foremen?—A. He sent some people.

Q. Did he come over with 100?—A. I don't think so Your Honour.

Q. On February 8, 1904, you wrote him to Portland, Maine?—A. I may have written him all right.

Q. He sent a money order for \$50, which you entered at once in your books?—A. Yes.

Q. Then you say: 'you and the men should not take any trouble about the time of the shipment, when your turn comes I will notify you by letter.'

'For the moment I will not make any change for the Filovori's list, but at the time of shipment you may call and bring with you as many men as you want and if you like, I may authorize you to bring even 100 of them.'

Q. Did he do the work for you, you wanted him to bring 100?—A. I don't think so.

Q. Did he not send 100 names over?—A. No, 40.

Q. That is he paid \$40 for the labourers and \$10 for himself?—A. Yes.

Q. That is all I want to ask you, Mr. Cordasco, until Monday morning, when I get this statement.

Mr. CANDORI re-examined.

By Mr. Internoscia:

Q. This is the agreement that you have prepared for the society?—A. I have not prepared it myself, it was prepared by the proper officer of the society.

Q. What is this petition that I have heard about from the society to the Governor General in Council, of May 19?—A. It was to solicit some help from the Federal government in the event of illiterate people coming here in the condition of which we have spoken.

Q. Was it acknowledged?—A. Yes, receipt was acknowledged, that is all.

Q. Are the facts in it correct?—A. Yes, because I prepared it myself.

Q. All the facts stated are correct?—A. Exactly.

‘To His Excellency the Governor General in Council,
‘Ottawa.

‘The petition of “The Immigration Aid Society No. 1 of the Immigration District of Montreal,” also known as the “Italian Immigration Aid Society” for Canada in Montreal, respectfully represents :—

‘1. That your petitioners have been incorporated, on the 10th of November, 1902, according to chapter 66 of the Revised Statutes of Canada, 1886 (35 Victoria, c. 29) ;

‘2. That the purposes of the society so incorporated are the following, to wit :

‘(a) Assisting Italian immigrants to reach Canada ;

‘(b) Assisting Italian immigrants to obtain employment ;

‘(c) Assisting Italian immigrants to obtain land for settlement from the Canadian government or the different provinces ;

‘(d) Assisting Italian immigrants in every possible way ;

‘(e) Enabling persons in Canada in want of labourers, artisans or servants to get from Italy desirable citizens.

‘3. That your petitioners—in order to do, for the welfare of the Italian immigrants, all the above—have opened not only an office but also a house of refuge, for which they will have to spend annually not less than four thousand dollars ;

‘4. That the Italian government has already given to your petitioners the sum of \$2,891.75, and will grant further subsidies of about two thousand dollars per year ;

‘5. That there are at present in the whole Dominion of Canada, about 40,000 Italians, and of these there are now not less than 12,000 without employment, over 1,000 being without any means of livelihood whatever, so that an aid society, like that formed by your petitioners, is not only desirable but also necessary, because it looks after the interests of such foreigners and helps them in time of need, as in the present instance, when hundreds of them receive food and lodging from our society ;

‘6. That, unless some material help is given by the Canadian government your petitioners will not be able to proceed with their work, in and amongst the Italian immigrants to Canada ;

‘Wherefore, your petitioners pray that it may please Your Excellency in Council to grant them some annual subsidy to make them proceed with their work as intended by the formation of said Immigration Aid Society.

‘And your petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

‘OTTAWA, May 19, 1904.

Q. Have you had any communication with Mr. Burns respecting the charges made by Mr. Cordasco?—A. Yes.

Q. When?—A. At the beginning of last year. As soon as people came to complain to the office that they were compelled to pay commissions to get work. I thought then it was my duty to go right away and make a complaint about that, but Mr. Burns said that he did not know anything particularly about that, and that he did not care, as long as the work was going on all right, and that it was not his business to know whether he charged \$1 or \$2.

Q. Was it not part of your business to make inquiries?—A. Yes.

Q. When did you next see him about it?—A. After that we wrote two letters of which Your Honour has copies, and addressed to the General Manager of the C.P.R.

SESSIONAL PAPER No. 36b.

Q. Do you remember the date?—A. March 16 and 26.

Q. Do you remember what the contents were?—A. The answer to the first letter that we sent was signed by Mr. Burns, and in the second letter we stated our surprise to see that what was stated by the special agent was just the opposite to what was promised to us by the higher officers of the company to whom some of the members of our board of management had applied. We explained the aims of our society, that we did not wish to interfere with the company's system, but that we did it without any idea of speculation or private interest and only to help the men and protect them from those people which took advantage of their ignorance to make money out of them.

Q. Did you tell Mr. Burns how much Mr. Cordasco was charging the men?—A. Yes, I did.

Q. Do you remember the amount?—A. \$3.

Q. For foremen?—A. I did not know how much it was for foremen, but later on, I think about last fall, some foreman, I cannot quite recollect whom, somebody, came to say he was compelled to pay \$25 to get a place as foreman.

Q. Do you remember the man?—A. No, somebody told me incidentally, I have not got the proof, and I only spoke to Mr. Burns without stating anything about it. About November, I think, last year, I was one day in Mr. Cordasco's office, just complaining about a man who was sent back without work, and I saw somebody getting the ticket, the free ticket to which they were entitled for their passage to Boston, and they paid \$1, and I asked why this man paid \$1. Cordasco said it was just for his trouble. As no body complained about that I did not say a word, but a few days ago the Consul General called my attention to the fact because some one complained at the Consulate that they had to pay for passes that were given free by the company. Another man came to my office complaining that he had paid \$1 for a pass, so I went down to Mr. Cordasco's to inquire into the matter. He got very excited, even very rough to me, but I do not know how they managed it, they gave him 50 cents and he did not say anything. There was no need of evidence with the other case, because I saw it myself. I saw positively a person once pay \$1 for a free passage ticket to Boston. Lately, about two months ago after Mr. McNicoll's private secretary and Mr. Lindsay told me that no money was to be paid here by Italian labourers, a man came to my office and told me that he had been compelled to pay \$3, and I took the man and went to see Mr. Burns right away. Mr. Burns made an investigation and although it was stated by this man that he had really paid the money Mr. Cordasco's books did not contain his name, and there was lots of looking about without any result.

Mr. ANTONIO GANNA, being sworn—

By the Commissioner:

Q. You are clerk in Mr. Cordasco's office?—A. Yes.

Q. Since how long?—A. Nine months.

Q. When did you come there first?—A. About October 12 of last year.

Q. What are your duties?—A. Shipping money to Italy, selling tickets, correspondence and everything in the office line.

Q. You are kept pretty busy?—A. Sometimes.

Q. You receive how much?—A. \$45 a month.

Q. Who conducts the correspondence?—A. The correspondence I write myself but sometimes take instructions from Mr. Cordasco.

Q. Do you take instructions from Cordasco?—A. Sometimes.

Q. You remember receiving a postal card from Mr. Parretti?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. When was that received?—A. I think in February.

Q. February last?—A. I think about that time.

Q. Did Mr. Cordasco see it then?—A. No, he was sick at that time.

Q. Did you read it to him?—A. Oh, yes, he opened the correspondence himself.

4-5 EDWARD VII., A. 1905

Q. You bring it to him every morning, you read everything to him every morning?—A. I bring the correspondence he opens it.

Q. Does he instruct you how to answer?—A. Some letters.

Q. You remember the letter written to Parretti?—A. I do not remember that.

Q. You wrote it?—A. I wrote that letter.

Q. Did he instruct you to do so?—A. I am sure I do not know.

Q. Why did you write it?—A. Myself I wrote it but I did not have any instructions for that letter from Cordasco.

Q. Why did you say 10,000 men were wanted?—A. Well, I think, this year we would want them for railway work.

Q. Did Mr. Cordasco tell you that?—A. I cannot swear.

Q. Did Mr. Cordasco mention 10,000 men in the office sometimes?—A. Yes.

Q. How often did he mention it?—A. Some labourers in the office asked for work and sometimes he said this will be a good year for work, every contractor will want plenty, about 10,000 men in all.

Q. Did he ask or instruct you to write that letter to Parretti?—A. I cannot swear for that.

Q. Will you look at that letter and see if that came out of your head?—A. I know that very well.

Q. Did that come out of your own head, that is a pretty long letter, a pretty important letter?—A. This letter is an answer to foreign postal card sent by Mr. Parretti.

Q. That card you showed to Mr. Cordasco?—A. I remember that card he asked for some pamphlets for railways and he acknowledged receipt of them and I sent him newspapers to Italy.

Q. How did you come to send them to Parretti?—A. I saw his name in some place.

Q. When sending to Parretti, where did you find his name?—A. In some advertisement of steamship companies in some book.

Q. Who told you to send them to Parretti?—A. No one.

Q. Who told you to send newspapers away?—A. Nobody told me.

Q. You conduct the advertising department?—A. No, Your Honour, I take an interest for my boss in this case and send newspapers.

Q. Did you show Mr. Cordasco the letter that you wrote to Mr. Parretti, yes or no?—A. I do not think so.

Q. It was open to him in this letter book?—A. Oh, yes.

Q. It was copied in the letter book in the usual course?—A. Yes.

Q. You did copy that letter in the letter book?—A. Yes.

Q. How did you sign it?—A. Cordasco per A. Ganna.

Q. You stamped it?—A. Yes, with his steel stamp.

Q. Did Mr. Cordasco instruct you to stamp all letters with the stamp?—A. Yes.

Q. So you were carrying out your instructions in stamping that letter?—A. Yes, any letter, every letter.

Q. He was sick at that time?—A. Yes, only beginning to come down to the office.

Q. Did you tell him you had written to Mr. Parretti?—A. This I cannot remember. Some days I have from 10 to 20 letters, and I do not know whether he knew I had written to Mr. Parretti.

Q. You wrote to others stating that you wanted 10,000 men?—A. Well, perhaps, I do not remember seeing letters.

Q. Did you not hear them read yesterday?—A. Not to Parretti.

Q. Not to Parretti, all the others besides Parretti's. (Hands him letter)?—A. That is all right, I will take the responsibility for that.

Q. The 6th of January, he was not sick on January 6? Did he instruct you to write that letter?—A. I suppose I was not instructed, I wrote that letter and put it into his basket and he could see it. The basket was between our two desks.

Q. You say in that letter:

SESSIONAL PAPER No. 36b.

'MONTREAL, January 6, 1904.

'Messrs. LUCAS CAMMAROTA & Co.,
'13 Burns St., Fall River, Mass.

'I promptly answer your letter. I do not make shipments to Nova Scotia. I send men to work for the C.P.R. and other great companies and contractors, and this year I shall be in need of 10,000 men.

'The first shipment will be sure in the spring according to the weather, and the first to start are those marked in my books.

'If you want more particulars write to me and I shall give them to you.

'Yours truly.'

Q. That is what Mr. Cordasco told you, that he would be in need of 10,000 men?—
A. He instructed me only one time and for all times.

Q. That instruction was that he needed 10,000?—A. He did not tell me 10,000, only about 10,000.

Q. How did you come to state 10,000 instead of saying about 10,000? Here is another letter of January 26, 10,000 men, and another on February 9, 10,000 men again. That is what your instructions were, that is what you were told to write?—A. I think so.

Q. Do you remember Mr. Stabile's clerk being here?—A. His clerk Pistorino?

Q. Yes, why did he tell him that you wanted 10,000 men?—A. Me?

Q. No, Mr. Cordasco?—A. Well, this I cannot tell you, because I was not there. Mr. Cordasco sent me out on duty. He stayed in the office about one hour.

Q. Did Mr. Cordasco mention to Mr. Pistorino that he would want 10,000 men?
A. Not in the office, no.

Q. At any other place?—A. No, I closed the office at twelve.

Q. What number of men did you mention to Aiello?—A. Plenty men, no number. I told him this year was going to be a good season for work.

Q. 10,000 men?—A. Not 10,000.

Q. What time was this?—A. He came every morning. He came into the office on the 14th and I think he stayed in Montreal eight or ten days.

Q. Do you know how many men Cordasco told him?—A. He sent him a telegram to prepare for men, but did not say how many.

Q. How much did Mr. Cordasco charge foremen?—A. \$10.

Q. No more than that?—A. At present?

Q. No more in your time?—A. I only worked for Cordasco since last October.

Q. You did not know that he charged some \$15, \$25, even as high as \$40?—A. Not last year, I cannot tell.

Q. Sometimes the men paid as high as \$4?—A. Yes.

Q. How many paid \$4?—A. About 186.

Q. You gave me a list of 204. Now do you not remember this lot that had paid \$1 before and \$3 afterwards?—A. Yes, 204 you will remember they registered twice.

Q. How many of these received work?—A. Very few.

Q. Have they asked to be repaid their money?—A. Some people.

Q. Quite a number?—A. Exactly, three or four a week, this week about ten.

Q. There were more than ten in one day while I was there, asking to get their money back?—A. In one day, yes I remember.

Q. Do you remember when I was in the office looking over the papers a young fellow who wanted to get to Boston, had paid \$3, brought his agreement and asked for his money?—A. Yes, and he was told to come next day.

Q. He did not get his money?—A. I do not remember.

Q. He appeared to be very sick?—A. Yes.

Q. Dying of consumption?—A. Yes.

Q. And could not get his money back?—A. Yes.

Q. I told Cordasco to pay the money?—A. I remember that.

4-5 EDWARD VII., A. 1905

Q. And he would not pay it?—A. No, he told him to come the next morning.

Q. Do you know how much Cordasco makes in a year out of these people?—A. I cannot tell you because I have not been with him a year. For about six months I can say about \$7,000.

Q. Out of the men for six months?—A. No out of the men altogether. Out of the men registered now, you have that list, the amount is \$6,121.

Q. And there are some monies received by Mr. Cordasco not mentioned in your statement?—A. No.

Q. He did not give you a statement of that \$34 when I was there on June 29, you remember that?—A. I remember now.

Q. He did not give you that statement before that?—A. No.

Q. I told him he had forgotten to give that. You remember, I stated that there were other names of young men who had come and said they had paid him money?—A. I don't know because one morning he came down and told me there were three or four men for registration and I registered the names and—

Q. No money?—A. No money.

Q. Now you cannot swear as a matter of real occurrence that this is the only sum he received from the men, \$6,121 for the last few months beginning with November, December, January, February, March, April and May?—A. Yes, for that statement.

Q. As far as you know?—A. Yes, and the nine men in July and 27 in June.

Q. How much from the Canadian Pacific Railway during the same months?—A. That changes every month. Sometimes \$270, sometimes \$300, I think in July about \$600, because 300 have left for work, and they had some provisions.

Q. How much would that be in addition to the \$6,121?—A. The Canadian Pacific Railway has nothing to do with this work.

Q. How much would he make out of the Canadian Pacific Railway for attending to this work?—A. \$1 for each man.

Q. And that would be up to the present time, \$331 this month alone?—A. Yes.

Q. How many for six months this year?—A. Of this year \$727.

Q. Does that include the \$300?—A. Yes.

Q. Before that he got \$5 per day until the end of April?—A. He had \$5 per day until November of last year, and in December he got some translations to do.

Q. Did he get anything for looking after the men in December, January, February? Now, you gave me a statement of \$153 in November and \$400 in December?—A. That is men who have registered in the office.

Q. You have sent in your accounts, they will show what you have received from the Canadian Pacific Railway?—A. In December I have a few dollars, I think, about \$100.

Q. How much commission does he make out of the men for travelling expenses, tickets?—A. Mr. Cordasco? nothing at all, he does not charge commission.

Q. But he charges a commission from the Canadian Pacific Railway and from the steamship lines in connection with these men?—A. Well, he gets \$2 from the Canadian Pacific Railway, but I have not sold any.

Q. Not this year?—A. Not this nor last year.

Q. How many steamship tickets from Italy for these men?—A. I think about 125 from Italy and gets \$7.

Q. That is only one company. How much from every company?—A. About 105 or \$735.

Q. In connection with these men he therefore makes pretty nearly \$10,000 a year on them?—A. In one year? I know only these months.

Q. Taking from June to June?—A. I went to him in October.

Q. Well, then, from October to October?—A. I suppose so.

Q. That is all until Monday; you will get this statement prepared for me.

SESSIONAL PAPER No. 36b.

LUIGI GIACCI, being sworn. (Through interpreter.)

By Mr. Mowat :

- Q. How long have you been in Canada?—A. Fourteen months.
 Q. Are you a foreman?—A. Not last time, only this summer.
 Q. Did you go to Mr. Cordasco to have your name registered?—A. Yes.
 Q. What did you pay him?—A. \$10.
 Q. Did you get a foreman's job?—A. Yes.
 Q. What time?—A. About January 1, I do not remember the time exactly.
 Q. Did you make up a gang?—A. Yes.
 Q. How many?—A. Forty-four.
 Q. Did you pay for them, or did they pay themselves?—A. My brother gave money to Mr. Cordasco.
 Q. How much, \$1 a piece?—A. First time \$1 a piece, second \$2.
 Q. When was the last demand made?—A. I do not remember.
 Q. About when?—A. About a month ago.
 Q. They never have got work?—A. No.
 Q. Did they ask for their money back?—A. They asked lots of times for to get money back.
 Q. Did not get it?—A. No.
 Q. Is that all you wish to say?—A. That is all I can say.

GUISEPPE MIGNELLA, recalled.

States : In December last Mr. Cordasco told me to make up a gang, 100 if I liked, because he needed 10,000 men to go to British Columbia for the Canadian Pacific Railway.

By Mr. Mowat :

- Q. When was that?—A. In December last I paid \$42 to Mr. Ganna and Mr. Cordasco said that at that time that he needed 10,000 for the Canadian Pacific Railway. He said supply what men you like, the more the better.
 Q. How often did he mention 10,000 men?—A. Every time when I used to go to the office.
 Q. You went to the office?—A. Yes, very often when I had the name of two or three or five men I used to bring the money and he used to say it.
 Q. When for the last time?—A. Two weeks ago I went there for a job.
 Q. What did he say then?—A. He put me out of the office like a dog.
 Q. Is there anything else?—A. Yes, for two boxes of sardines and pork and beans he charges \$2.85 for me and my son to go to White River.

GUISEPPE SANTARELLA, being sworn. (Through interpreter.)

By the Commissioner :

- Q. How long have you been in America?—A. Going on three years.
 Q. When did you apply to Cordasco for work?—A. In December last.
 Q. What position did you apply for?—A. A job on the C.P.R.
 Q. Did you pay anything?—A. I gave \$3 to my foreman and the foreman said I would get work immediately, to-morrow.
 Q. What was the name of the foreman?—A. Salvatore Mollo.
 Q. Did you get your money back?—A. No.
 Q. Did you ask for the return of the money?—A. I asked my foreman, because I gave the money to him.
 Q. He did not get it back?—A. No, sir.
 Q. You have no work yet?—A. No.

FRANK GEOFFRIE being sworn.

By the Commissioner:

Q. How old are you Frank?—A. 14 years.

Q. Were you employed in Cordasco's office?—A. Yes.

Q. When?—A. In December last.

Q. Until when?—A. Until the last of April.

Q. How much did you get from him for working?—A. \$3.25 per week.

Q. Why did you leave him?—A. Because my mother would not allow me to go there any more.

Q. What did you do in the office?—A. I was message boy, did all work in the office.

Q. Did you do any typewriting?—A. Yes, when Mr. Cordasco gave me some to do.

Q. Did you see Mr. Stabile's representative there?—A. Well, I don't know Mr. Stabile, one of his secretaries.

Q. His clerk?—A. Yes.

Q. When was he there?—A. I cannot tell.

Q. While you were there?—A. Yes.

Q. What number of men did Mr. Cordasco say was wanted for this year?—A. The first time I was working over there he told some men he wanted 10,000 men.

Q. How often?—A. Two or three times I think.

Q. To different men?—A. Yes, Your Honour.

Q. Did he tell that to Mr. Stabile's secretary?—A. I cannot tell you for sure.

Q. You remember Mr. Aiello?—A. Yes.

Q. Did he speak to Mr. Aiello about the number of men?—A. I cannot say.

Q. Was it about that time that he was speaking about 10,000?—A. No, Your Honour.

Q. After that?—A. Before that.

Q. Do you remember his writing to Mr. Burns about wanting 10,000 men?—A. No, Your Honour.

Q. You do not remember that?—A. No.

Q. What do you remember about his writing to Mr. Burns?—A. Well, he wrote him almost every day.

Q. Anything about the number of men?—A. I do not remember.

Q. Anything about the amount charged the men?—A. One time he said two thousand men, each one thousand dollars, but I do not know if he gives that to anybody.

Q. You don't know if he divides up with anybody?—A. No.

Q. That is what was written to Mr. Burns?—A. Yes, Your Honour.

Q. Two thousand men, one thousand dollars each. You remember when that was written?—A. No, Your honour.

Q. Who was to get that money?—A. I don't know.

Q. Was that the men's money Mr. Cordasco was getting from Mr. Burns or from the C.P.R.?—A. Don't know.

Q. Do you remember Mr. Mollo?—A. Well, you see, I don't remember, there were lots of men over there.

Q. You see Mollo is one you would always remember?—A. I know Mollo all right.

Q. Do you remember him giving \$10 to Cordasco?—A. I cannot tell.

Q. There were so many giving?—A. Yes.

The Commission adjourned until Monday, July 25, 1904,
10 o'clock in the forenoon, court house.

SESSIONAL PAPER No. 36b.

MONTREAL, QUE., Monday, July 25, 1904.

THE COURT HOUSE, 10 A.M.

The Commission resumed.

PRESENT:

His Honour JUDGE WINCHESTER, Commissioner.

H. M. MOWAT, Esq., K.C., Counsel for the Dominion Government.

ALFREDO DI ROSA being sworn: (Through interpreter).

By Mr. Mowat:

Q. You are editor of *La Patria Italiana*?—A. Yes, chief editor.

Q. How long have you been in that position and what date did your employment stop?—A. From last December to last week of May.

Q. Mr. Alberto Dini, is he the owner or a shareholder in that paper?—A. No.

Q. Do you remember Mr. Alberto Dini asking you to write out an advertisement calling for 10,000 labourers?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. What time was that?—A. I do not remember, between January and February.

Q. This advertisement was published on January 14 and 21 last: 'For the coming spring. Mr. Alberto Dini announces that there will be a very large demand for perhaps 10,000 labourers for the coming spring. Italian workmen know that Mr. Dini is the representative of very many construction companies and also are aware of the proverbial integrity with which he has in the past proven during the many years he has resided in Montreal. Those who desire to obtain work at good wages from spring until winter would do well to register their names at Dini's bank, 2026 St. Catherine street?'

Q. Did Mr. Dini ask you to write that?—A. Yes, the first time.

Q. And it was repeated in other editions?—A. Yes, many times.

Q. What is the circulation of your paper?—A. From 1,200 to 1,300.

Q. How many of these were sent to Italy?—A. I don't know. Any man can buy the paper and send it.

Q. Were any sent from the office?—A. No.

Q. Do you know how many Dini got of these?—A. No they only get one from the office.

Q. Dini said here the other day that he knew nothing about this advertisement, but saw it only afterwards?—A. He came himself to my office and asked me to write the advertisement.

By the Commissioner:

Q. How much did he pay for the advertisement?—A. Nothing to me.

Q. Can you find out date or anything else?—A. I don't know, his friend Villani might know.

Q. Does Villani keep the books?—A. I think he does, there is no other man there.

Q. Can you produce the original advertisement left by Mr. Dini?—A. I am not there any more.

Q. Who would give it?—A. Villani himself, I do not know where he is.

Q. Is he in town, could we get him to-night?—A. I do not think so, to-morrow perhaps, or next day. He was in town Friday last.

Q. Was the advertisement left in the usual way other advertisements come in?

A. Handed in by Mr. Dini in the usual way.

4-5 EDWARD VII., A. 1905

Q. Where did you write the article?—A. In my office.

Q. Where?—A. At 335 St. James St.

Q. Not in Dini's office?—A. No.

Q. Where did Dini tell you to write it, at what place?—A. In the newspaper office.

Q. Did Dini produce any advertisement of Cordasco's?—A. No, never spoke about Cordasco.

C. H. CATELLI, being sworn.

By Mr. Mowat:

Q. What is your name in full?—A. Charles Honoré Catelli.

Q. Have you been a long time a resident of Montreal?—A. 38 years.

Q. You have taken an interest in the immigration of Italians that have come to Montreal from time to time?—A. Well, generally they come down to us when they want help.

Q. You have assisted them for years?—A. Yes, in a small way.

Q. Are you a member of a society called the Italian Immigration Aid Society No. 1?—A. Yes, the president.

Q. What was the purpose of the founders of that society?—A. It was to try and prevent Italians coming here without any work to try and systematize as much as possible the work of the Italians in Montreal.

Q. I infer from that you supplied the essentials to exist?—A. That is what we tried to do.

Q. That was the aim of the society?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Do you remember the influx of Italian labourers here in May last?—A. Yes.

Q. Did you calculate how many? Your work would probably enable you to obtain the number?—A. There was, I think, 5,000, of course that is only my own opinion.

Q. Were you able to form any personal opinion as to the amount of means these people had, whether they were destitute or not?—A. Those who applied to the immigration society complained they had no money.

Q. Have you any idea as to their truthfulness?—A. When a man is satisfied to eat hard bread and drink water I think there is not much money in his pocket.

Q. Were you one of those who interested yourself in going to the municipality to see the mayor and aldermen with a view of having something done?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Do you remember conversing with Mr. Laporte?—A. Yes, perfectly well.

Q. Were you one of those who sanctioned the expenditure of some of the Italian Government's money for a temporary supply of food?—A. Yes, with the permission of the Consul.

Q. That is Count Mazza?—A. Yes, sir, Count Mazza.

Q. Have you formed any opinion as to the chief cause of this excessive immigration, will you give it to us?—A. Some Italians came to see me, when I asked them why they came here, they said they had been sent by Mr. Parretti of Udine.

Q. How many were there?—A. There were five or six, they went back.

Q. Did they show you any cards?—A. They had a book of addresses and a set of cards given at Parretti's office.

Q. What was on the cards?—A. I did not notice. These people were told by Mr. Parretti, that Signor Cordasco was a large contractor in Montreal, and wanted 8,000 or 10,000 men.

Q. They were told that in Italy?—A. Yes.

Q. That induced them to come to this country?—A. Yes.

Q. They have now gone back to Italy?—A. I was told they had gone back.

Q. This is a statement signed by these men:

'We, the undersigned, declare as follows: That at the moment of leaving Italy for Canada, Mr. Antoni Parretti has read and shown us a letter signed by Antonio

SESSIONAL PAPER No. 36b.

Cordasco, in which he asks for 8,000 or 10,000 labourers from the Province of Venete, and in which he promises immediate work as soon as we get to destination. Besides this we saw circulars and newspapers coming from Montreal, with the photograph of Cordasco circulated in our province, encouraging the labourers to emigrate to Canada. Besides that Parretti distributed the address of Cordasco as above.

‘Signed by ten Italians.

‘MONTREAL, April 22, 1904.’

Q. Is that a correct translation?—A. Yes, sir, that is about what they told me.

Q. Do you remember receiving a letter of complaint from some Italians at North Bay?—A. Yes.

Q. Have you got the letter?—A. I gave it to Mr. MacKenzie King.

Q. Is this a proper translation of it?:

‘States that the men were pretty nearly starving up at North Bay; they had got some help from another man who came from Montreal. If it had not been for him they would have died, some of them. Now would be the time to ask Mr. Cordasco where is that work which he had when he said he would employ 8,000 or 10,000 labourers, in the letter he wrote to Antonio Parretti, agent of the ‘Le Veloce’ Udine. About 20 of us at Venete can prove this. Mr. Parretti read to us a great many times the letter of Mr. Cordasco. You must pardon my speaking about Mr. Cordasco, but my conscience compels me to. I am only doing it with a view to stop this fraud, and they have had to mortgage everything to come to this country, with the hope that they would find a fortune; in exchange they are suffering hardships and misery.

‘The day that I signed the declaration there were over twenty with me. Italians all over Canada tell you the same.

‘To certify the truth of what I am saying I will sign with two of my friends.

(Signed) ‘ANTONIO COSANI,
‘DEMURZA GIOVANNI,
‘VITTORIO VENTARUTTI.’

A. Yes, that is about the tenor of the letter.

Q. Which you received from North Bay?—A. Yes.

Q. You say that you have paid attention to the assistance of Italians for this number of years, have you formed an opinion as to the best means of preventing such trouble as we had here?—A. Well, I think for my part that the Italian Government tried to prevent them as much as possible from coming and if the Government here could get the Government of the United States to prevent a man from landing unless he had sufficient means, at least for a couple of months, that is what I suggested to the Hon. Mr. Sifton.

Q. Would you go so far as to say that private agencies should be prohibited?—A. Well, my idea would have been that the employment of labourers should be in the hands of an incorporated, disinterested society.

Q. A disinterested society?—A. Yes, such as the Immigration Society.

Q. Without private interest?—A. Yes.

Q. You think that the cause of this excessive immigration was that if a man is interested in making money he can be trusted to make as much as he can, business is business you would say?—A. Yes, sir.

Mr. CORDASCO re-examined.

By the Commissioner:

Q. You are still under oath, Mr. Cordasco?—A. Yes, Your Honour.

Q. Can you tell me the number of Italians that came from the States and registered with you this year?—A. A little over 300.

4-5 EDWARD VII., A. 1905

Q. How many over 300?—A. If Your Honour will give permission, Mr. Ganna will give you statement?

Q. Yes?—A. (Looks at statement.) 341 came to Montreal that we did not ask to come and 536 came at my request, making a total of 877.

Q. All these registered with you?—A. These 877 registered.

Q. Registered and paid their fees whether they came or not?—A. They sent to me \$1 each from their place.

Q. Besides \$10 for foremen?—A. For some interpreters.

Q. When was the last money you received from interpreters from the United States?—A. Well, that is quite a while—

Q. See your letter book?—A. Mr. Ganna, bring the letter book here.

Q. Turn up letter from Franco, Mr. Ganna?—Mr. Ganna.—A. Yes, I have it. Mr Cordasco: That is not very long ago, he promised me but never sent in any list.

Q. (To witness.) Look at the letter book, page 225. I will read you a translation of the letter:

MONTREAL, June 24, 1904.

‘VINCENZO FRANCO,

Post Office,

Boston, Mass.

‘I am in receipt of your letter of the 22nd instant enclosing a money order for \$20, and I thank you. I have noted its contents. I cannot but confirm what I have already stated in my letter of the 16th instant. The conditions of labour have not much changed because from the 16th to date I have sent out only two small parties.

‘Do not be discouraged, because I will be able to call upon you shortly, as already mentioned in my preceding letter. You can write me again after the first of July, and if the situation has changed, I will be able to say what I will be able to do, but to-day I do not promise you anything. I cannot make any preference to others; I have some whose names are registered prior to yours.

‘With best respects,

‘A. CORDASCO.’

Q. So you received \$20 from Mr. Franco?—A. Yes.

Q. You still have that \$20?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Did he ask you to return it to him?—A. I got a letter this morning that I saw myself.

Q. How long since it was received?—A. I saw one this morning.

Q. When did it come here?—A. The letter?

Q. Yes.—A. Just this morning, one letter.

Q. When did you receive another letter before this morning?—A. I do not remember.

Q. Try and find out, Mr. Ganna—July 14. (Mr. Ganna finds letter and hands book to witness.)

Q. What does it say?—A. ‘I have received your letter, but now I cannot send your order, because I am sending very few men to the Canadian Pacific Railway, but keep quiet, and when I can I will send you.’

Q. Was he asking for the return of his \$20?—A. He asked this morning; well, I only received it this morning.

Q. This is a translation of your letter of July 14, 1904 :—

‘MONTREAL, July 14, 1904.

‘Sig. Vincenzo Franco,

Post Office,

Boston, Mass.

‘Your favour of the 2nd instant has come to hand. I must inform you that had you written in February, even though you had not done so regularly before I could have

SESSIONAL PAPER No. 36b:

registered your name, basing myself on the promises contained in your letters I would have trusted to your honesty to pay the registration tax.

'Admitting the manner in which you write, it is very difficult to employ foremen or interpreters, for you must know that foremen or interpreters who are registered in my books can only be employed in the order in which they are registered.

'I am not an individual who would sell himself for \$10 or \$1,000, honesty before all, and my letter of June 16 speaks clearly on this point.

'With much esteem,

'ANTONIO CORDASCO.'

Q. Why did you not return the money?—A. I was waiting for a chance for him.

Q. You wanted his money the first thing?—A. He never asked for his money.

Q. Why did you say you had already returned it?—A. I just said we had that business letter I received this morning; I am ready to send the money to-night.

Q. I know you are willing, but you do not do it?—A. If you want to call Ganna he will prepare my cheque for the amount.

Q. You had better fill up a large one if you give back their money to all who ask for it?—A. I will give what is due to them. I am ready to refund the money to any man who calls for it; I want to get finished with this thing.

Q. So do I, because it has been hard work to get you to say you owed them any. How much money have you charged as having paid Mosco?—A. I paid Mosco in different ways.

Q. What was the sum you charged that was paid by the Canadian Pacific Railway?—A. Two or three months or four or five months.

Q. How much did you charge the Canadian Pacific Railway account; I read it Saturday?—A. \$45.

Q. When was that paid?—A. This was last fall.

Q. What was that for?—A. Because he worked with me, helped me to handle a lot of men, met train.

Q. How many days did he work for you?—A. I think he worked a couple of months or more.

Q. Do you know how much you charged for him?—A. \$1.50 a day.

Q. Did you pay him \$1.50?—A. In different times, yes; not for that work.

Q. That work you charged the Canadian Pacific Railway?—A. Yes.

Q. Are you certain that you did not pay him more?—A. Not more than \$1.50.

Q. Did you pay him the \$1.50 charged to the Canadian Pacific Railway?—A. I did.

Q. Are you swearing to that?—A. Yes.

Q. Deliberately?—A. Yes.

Q. How much did you pay to Memme? Who is he?—A. An Italian foreman who lives at Sherbrooke.

Q. You charged as having paid him \$30?—A. Yes, Your Honour.

Q. Have you got your book showing payment to Mosco?—A. I have not got any.

Q. How many steamship lines do you represent, Mr. Cordasco?—A. About 12 or 13.

Q. How long have you represented them?—A. I began some time last October, 1903.

Q. How many inward or outward tickets have you sold for all the steamers?—A. I think about 140 to 145.

Q. You remember those brought into Canada?—A. I sold tickets here from my office, 375 St. James.

Q. Do you know Angelo de Santis, 118 Canal Street, Buffalo?—A. Possibly I had a letter; I don't know him personally.

Q. Do you remember sending him this letter:—

4-5 EDWARD VII., A. 1905

'MONTREAL, Feb. 19, 1904.

'Mr. ANGELO DE SANTIS,
'118 Canal Street,
Buffalo, N.Y.

'I took note of the contents of your last letter and I enclose herewith a copy of the rules which have to be followed by those who, by their own free will, enter their name for the first shipments.

'But I do not take any responsibility to engage men as masons or stone cutters. I need this year nearly 10,000 men, but all of them must be able to work with pick and shovel.

'If you like you may engage men for the first shipments, but I do not take any responsibility, only take those men who give their name by their own free will, and send me the list of the names very clearly written with a mark that shows they have paid \$1 each for office and inscription fees.

'Please enclose with the list the money order and I will enter their names progressively, and when their turn will come I will ask for them.

'Remember that I do not force anybody to give their names.

'The railway fare from Buffalo to Montreal has to be paid by the men, a free pass from Buffalo being given in July and August only, but then the season is short and the earnings little.

'Yours truly.

A. I think I saw this letter.

Q. Was this letter sent according to your instructions?—A. I think so.

Q. You will not go back on that?—A. Well, of course I cannot quite remember the whole letter.

Q. You say you remember the letter?—A. I remember something about it.

Q. Then it is your letter?—A. I did not write it myself.

Q. No, you only wrote to foreigners, those outside of the country. You always got your clerk to write what you wanted?—A. I was in bed for two months and my clerk showed me the mail that came in the morning and I told him to answer. Sometimes he answered one thing for another.

Q. When he went to your house he always brought you the letters?—A. Those which came from Montreal, and I told him to answer these, but to look out for anything that might be important.

Q. You told him how to answer?—A. How to answer letters not to put me in trouble.

Q. Did you expect trouble?—A. Well, he might write one thing for another.

Q. What kind of trouble were you expecting?—A. I do not know; he might write everything, saying send 10,000.

Q. Did you think he was doing this?—A. I do not know.

Q. You did not think he was a dangerous sort of man?—A. I wanted to be sure to protect myself.

Q. You rememeber this letter at any rate?—A. I heard this.

Q. At the time it was written?—A. I do not know if I was any better.

Q. You say: 'I took notice of the contents of your last letter and I enclose herewith a copy of the rules which have to be followed by those who, by their own free will, enter their names for the first shipments.'

Q. You remember that?—A. Not quite. I want to look at the letter. (Looks at the letter.) 19th February, I was just at that time in bed and did not write the letter. I think I just said to Mr. Ganna, this is the spirit of the letters you write them.

Q. And he brought all the letters he had received before for you?—A. All letters addressed to Cordasco he brought to me, to my bed.

Q. And he read them to you?—A. I did not do that myself.

Q. Yes, you did?—A. Yes.

SESSIONAL PAPER No. 36b.

Q. Told him to answer ?—A. Yes.

Q. Then you remember that letter from Angelo de Santis, 118 Canal street, Buffalo ?—A. I do not know, I might remember if I could see what is wanted.

Q. 'If you like you may engage men for the first shipments, but I do not take any responsibility, only take those men who give their names by their own free will, and send me the list of the names very clearly written with a mark that shows they have paid one dollar each for office and inscription fees.'

Q. You remember that letter ?—A. I remember every letter.

Q. That is what you told him to write ?—A. As far as that.

Q. You think that is right ?—A. So far as that is it is right.

Q. 'Please enclose list and money order and I will enter their names progressively and when their turn will come I will ask for them.'

Q. Is that right ?—A. Yes.

Q. 'Remember that I do not force anybody to give their names' ?—A. That is what I told Ganna.

Q. 'The railway fare from Buffalo to Montreal is to be paid by the men free, free passes being only given in July and August, but then the season is short and the earnings little' ?—A. So far as that goes it is correct.

Q. Will you go any further ?—A. Your Honour has got the letter you can see what is in it.

Q. You think this is correct; is that the way you instructed him ?—A. Well, a man reads letter first.

Q. You think he wrote that letter according to your instructions ?—A. I never told him to say 'I need this year nearly ten thousand men.'

Q. All the letter is right but that ?—A. I never authorized him to ask anybody for 10,000.

Q. 'But I do not take any responsibility; only take those men who give their names by their own free will.'

Q. That is right ?—A. Yes.

Q. 'I need this year nearly 10,000 men, but all of them must be able to work with pick and shovel' ?—A. I never instructed Ganna to ask for 10,000 or 5,000 or 15,000 men.

Q. Everything but that is right ?—A. I never authorized 10,000 men.

Q. This letter appears to have been sent dated January 26, 1904, to Luigi Scarcella as follows:—

MONTREAL, January 26, 1904.

Mr. Luigi Scarcella,
243 Rideau Street,
Ottawa, Ont.

SIR,—I reply to your letter of the 23rd inst., of which content I took note, but in this moment I do not know where I can find work for you.

Next season I shall be in need of 10,000 men, whose work will be a heavy one, and as I understand in your letter you do not like to work with the shovel.

In the beginning of March please to write again and I will see if I can do anything for you, but I cannot promise anything.

Yours truly.

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Also a similar letter dated Feb. 9, 1904, and addressed to

'Mr. Aristide Guerrieri.

P. O. Box 11, Mapleton Dep., Pa.

Your letter (without any date) I am sorry to say that I shall not be able to find any work that may suit you. I find work for thousands of men and this year I shall

4-5 EDWARD VII., A. 1905

be in need of 10,000 of them, but I need only men that can work with shovel and pick.

Yours truly,

—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Now here are eighty-nine letters to people in the United States and one or two in Canada, written in January, February, March and April, in which you ask them to send the money and you will send them out according to the order in which their names are registered?—A. I never asked money.

Q. Never?—A. I never wrote letter telling them to send \$10 or any dollars. These men write to me first, and I told them if you want to be registered in my books you will have to pay \$1 for each man and an interpreter \$10, and then I will call you whenever your turn comes, and do not come to Montreal until I send for you.

Q. Will you look at this and see if these names are correct. They are the names of men to whom you addressed letters for the purpose of having them send money, 89 I think I counted. These are the names of persons to whom similar letters were sent in January, February, March and April; 89 I find altogether?—A. Well, I guess Your Honour is right.

Q. You think I am right?—A. These letters I received I never asked for any money.

Q. You did not refuse registration without money?—A. They wrote to have work, and I said if you want to be registered it will cost you \$1 for my trouble.

Q. Will you read this letter and to whom it is addressed; read it out aloud so that we may all hear it.

MONTREAL, January 27, 1904.

‘Mr. GIUSEPPE DI SCHIAVI,

‘151 Acorn St., Providence, R.I.

‘I send you back your letter, which I cannot take into consideration, for I cannot enter your name in my books only on the same conditions as everybody else, which conditions I explained to you clearly in my previous letter.

Yours truly,

Q. You would not register this man without money?—A. No use working for glory.

Q. The dollar was the object in view. He wanted to enter his name without money?—A. He did.

Q. And you would not do it?—A. No.

Q. There are several letters of that nature?—A. Probably, Your Honour.

Q. You would not enter without money?—A. Because I pay money myself and people have got to pay me.

Q. A number of foremen registered in November and December of last year, did they not?—A. Yes.

Q. For this year's work?—A. Yes.

Q. They have not gone out yet?—A. That was not my fault.

Q. Some men registered in March and April this year?—A. Yes.

Q. Foremen with gangs?—A. Yes.

Q. They have gone out?—A. One or two.

Q. Why did they go out before the other men who had registered in November and December?—A. They had better gangs, and could supply better men than the others, that is my reason.

Q. Can you tell me which gangs were better than the others?—A. Yes, I can, Your Honour.

Q. Tell me then, look at your book, I want to see?—A. I know the foremen and know what kind of men they have.

Q. Tell me the foremen who did not have good labourers?—A. Get the book, Mr. Ganna.

(This testimony was here interrupted for a few minutes in order to hear a couple of other witnesses who had to leave.)

SESSIONAL PAPER No. 36b.

Mr. JOSEPH ALPHONSE RODIER, being sworn.

By Mr. Mowat :

Q. Are you a member of the Trades and Labour Council?—A. I would like better to have the questions put in French. I cannot perhaps make myself very intelligible in English.

Q. We can get along very well; it will take a little longer. Are you a member of the Trades and Labour Council? I shall have no difficulty in understanding you, in speaking about your evidence, and think you may give it in that way?—A. I cannot do that; it is too serious.

By the Commissioner :

Q. What is the matter, Mr. Mowat?

Mr. MOWAT.—He does not want to give his evidence in English.

By the Commissioner :

Q. I am perfectly sure we can get along; do your best, Mr. Rodier?—A. I beg pardon, Your Honour, I want to know perfectly well.

Q. If you do not understand what Mr. Mowat asks let me know what your difficulty is and I will explain to you what I can?—A. But I cannot answer in English. Will you put it in French.

Q. Are you a member of the Trades and Labour Council?—A. I am a member of the Trades and Labour Council.

Q. Answer all the questions you understand in English in that way?—A. I cannot do that.

Q. You will try please?—A. I will try, I am perfectly ready to try, but I know I cannot tell all.

By Mr. Mowat :

Q. Do you do editorial writing in the newspaper 'La Patrie'?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. You have been for some years?—A. No, for about eight months.

Q. Have you given your attention as a member of the council, a labour writer and journalist to labour questions in Montreal?—A. Yes, for a long time.

Q. Have you formed any opinion as to the effect on the labour market by the sudden influx of a number of unemployed labourers?—A. Yes.

Q. What effect in your opinion would that have on the scale of wages?—A. To bring wages down, to diminish the salary.

Q. Is it your opinion that the labour market is sensitive to sudden changes?—A. Yes, I understand your question well.

Q. In the month of April there was a large number of Italians here who were ready to work and could not get it, what effect would that have on the scale of wages paid to residents of Montreal?—It is very hard to answer that question in English; I could give a better answer in French.

Q. It is all right, Mr. Rodier.

By the Commissioner :

Q. You have been doing nicely, Mr. Rodier, please do your best?—A. We have many organizations in Montreal, principally of labourers, who had the intention of asking more wages this spring, but when they found that we have so many strangers here they did not ask. I have heard many complaints that the Italians make low wages; they work for lower wages than our people. I do not know if you understand.

Q. We understand you perfectly. Now, Mr. Rodier, as a man taking an interest in labour questions, when did you first hear about this immigration of Italian labourers to Montreal?—A. I think, I am not quite sure, I think in April.

Q. From whom did you hear about it?—A. I cannot remember; I saw many people in the streets.

Q. But before they came did you hear anything about their coming?—A. Nothing at all.

Q. From no source whatever?—A. I do not remember.

Q. The matter was never talked over between yourself and others?—A. No.

Q. Never mentioned a scheme to bring a lot of Italians here?—A. I do not remember.

Q. Just think if that was not talked over in your hearing?—A. I do not think so.

Q. That is not very certain?—A. Well, I do not remember; it is possible, but I do not remember.

Q. It is possible?—A. Yes, because I speak every day about that question.

Q. That is the reason you are here giving evidence, because you know a good deal about that question. Can you tell me when you first heard that there was likely to be a large immigration of Italians into Montreal?—A. I do not remember that I ever heard before we saw some of them in Montreal.

Q. Not before then?—A. Not before that.

Q. Did you not talk with any one who desired to get a large number into Montreal?—A. Not at all.

Q. Not at all?—A. We talked in a general manner of immigration, not only of Italians; before that we talked many times and we saw by the newspapers and by what the Manufacturers' Association did and some circulars we received from England, we would have a big immigration this year.

Q. Where did you hear that first?—A. I heard that in the labour circles. They talked of that in their meetings.

Q. Any public men who are not in labour circles suggested that a large number of immigrants should be brought over?—A. Public men, what do you mean?

Q. You understand what a public man means, a man who takes an interest in public affairs?—A. In a general manner.

Q. Well, by any one besides labourers?—A. No.

Q. You did not hear from any other than from your labour unions?—A. No.

Q. The labour unions were not anxious to bring over a lot of men?—A. They did not want them.

Q. Who did want them?—A. The manufacturers, I suppose, and the great companies.

Q. Do not suppose, I want to know from your own knowledge?—A. I don't know only from what I have heard.

Q. That is what I want, from whom did you hear?—A. In newspapers.

Q. You understand, Mr. Rodier, this commission requires me to find out why so many immigrants came into this country at one time, and all the circumstances surrounding their coming in. That is the reason I am asking you these questions, to find out how these men came in here, to see what was the source from whence sprang this intention to bring a large number into Montreal at one time?—A. I regret I do not understand English very well. I did not hear that by any manufacturers or any others, but it was the subject of general conversation, and when I saw that in the papers, by documents I have seen in the papers, by documents coming from England, we saw by the advertising in the papers that we were going to have a large immigration to Montreal, that is what I know.

Q. That is the only source from which you knew that?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Not from conversations that you had with public men, manufacturers or any others?—A. No.

Q. Then, can you tell me the result of such a large influx at that time upon the labouring class in Montreal. What was the actual result?—A. They have only kept wages down.

Q. Were wages reduced in consequence?—A. I do not know that wages were reduced, but we are of the opinion generally that wages are lower here in Montreal on account of that immigration.

SESSIONAL PAPER No. 36b.

Q. How much are labourers receiving to-day?—A. Labourers receive \$1.50.

Q. That is the usual pay?—A. Yes.

Q. What are Italians employed on the street railway getting?—A. I have not seen the books of the company, but many people told me that they receive only from \$1.15 to \$1.25.

Q. That is part of the duty of your committees to inquire into?—A. Yes, but I cannot go before the company to see their books. It is also very hard to get that from the labourers themselves when they are Canadians, because they do not want to tell us; they are afraid we are going to make a complaint against them.

Q. I agree with you there.—A. We tried many times to get information, but they have refused to speak.

Q. Or tell you what was the wage?—A. Exactly.

Q. That has been my own experience if a man gets \$1 a day and if you ask him he says \$1.50?—A. Yes.

Mr. ROBERT M. HANNAFORD, being sworn.

By Mr. Mowat:

Q. Are you an engineer?—A. Yes.

Q. Employed by whom?—A. By the Montreal Street Railway Company.

Q. How long have you been in that position?—A. I have been in that position for a year.

Q. Has the Montreal Street Railway Company been putting down new rails within the last six months?—A. Yes.

Q. Employing labour for that purpose?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. What is your scale of wages now—for track layers?—A. Goes all the way from \$1.25 to \$1.50, in some cases to \$1.60 to old employees.

Q. Has that scale of wages changed since March last?—A. No.

Q. Always been the same?—A. Yes.

Q. For how long?—A. Ever since I have been with the company for about two years.

Q. Are you in a position to speak with authority as to this?—A. Yes.

Q. Was not the scale reduced this spring when this large number of labourers came?—A. Not with us.

Q. Was it in other occupations?—A. That I cannot speak about.

Q. Not on any of the lines, near lines?—A. None of ours.

Q. Did you employ some of these Italians?—A. We may have; I do not know. We did not go to any agencies.

Q. Who would know that?—A. Well, it is the men themselves, because the men themselves come to us to be employed.

Q. Who would know whether your company employed some of the Italians who came here this spring in such large numbers?—A. Some of our Italian sub-foremen.

Q. Have you got some of them yet on the line?—A. We have.

Q. Do you know what they were paid?—A. Sub-foremen?

Q. No, labouringmen?—A. \$1.25.

Q. Not less?—A. No.

Q. No change made?—A. No.

By the Commissioner:

Q. How many hours a day do they work?—A. 10 hours, sometimes longer, overtime.

Q. Do they get paid for overtime?—A. Yes, the same as ordinary time.

Q. That is 12½ cents or 15 cents?—A. 12½ cents.

Q. Who get 12½ cents?—A. Ordinary labourers.

Q. How many Italians have you in your employment?—A. Well, roughly speaking, I would say we have about 300.

Q. And what do they receive?—A. Some of them get as high as \$1.37.

Q. Foremen?—A. Sub-foremen.

Q. And ordinary labourers get 12½ cents an hour?—A. Ordinary labourers get 12½ cents an hour, although some of them get 13 cents, a sliding scale.

Q. Can you tell me how many of these Italians coming from Italy or from the United States have been employed by you?—A. That I cannot say without going over the pay-rolls and taking out our old men.

Q. How many old men had you last year that remained this spring?—A. Must have had 80 anyway.

Q. And you have 300 men?—A. About 300 now.

Q. What is the rate of wages in Montreal to ordinary labour in other departments?—A. I believe it is \$1.50, that is paid by the city.

Q. But you can find plenty of men to work for \$1.25?—A. We do that because we give the men more permanent employment than the city.

Q. What do you mean?—A. We give them snow shovelling in winter, almost continually.

Q. How many will you have in October next?—A. In October we ought to have about 125.

Q. How many do you keep through the winter?—A. That is a sliding scale, because Italians do not like to work in winter. Last winter they went out on strike.

Q. Do not like snow?—A. No.

Q. Do you know how this influx affected other trades where unskilled labour was required?—A. Not personally.

Q. You do not know personally?—A. No.

Q. You have no knowledge at all; have you made inquiries?—A. No.

Q. Well, you can get any number you wish at \$1.25 per day?—A. They come to us; we do not have to look for them.

Mr. JAMES B. MACK, being sworn.

By Mr. Mowat :

Q. I understand you are vice-president of the Dominion Trades and Labour Council?—A. I am.

Q. You for some years have given attention to labour matters?—A. For 22 years.

Q. I am told that you have a local council, and if I mistake not you are one of the founders?—A. Yes, one of the founders of the Montreal Trade and Labour Council.

Q. Will you state your opinion of the effect on the scale of wages in a city like Montreal, caused by the bringing in of large numbers of foreign labourers at one time?—A. The effect of bringing in large numbers of foreign labourers, in my opinion, would be a reduction in wages and probably prolonged hours of labour. When the labour market is flooded wages are not liable to increase, rather to decrease, and it is a benefit to capitalists or companies who employ large numbers of unskilled labourers to have a large immigration in order to have work performed at less cost.

Q. It is to the advantage of these companies to have a number of men available?—A. Certainly it is.

Q. What do you know of this large number of Italians who were brought here unable to get work in April last?—A. In my capacity of newspaper man, I saw large numbers going about the streets.

Q. You are a journalist as well?—A. I am labour editor of the 'Star.' In going about I am looking for information, and I met large numbers in our streets, parks,

SESSIONAL PAPER No. 36b.

crowds everywhere near the Windsor station, of men out of employment. I met Mr. Catelli one day in April. He said: 'Mr. Mack, we have a big lot of Italians in Montreal.' I told him I had seen them, and he asked 'what are we going to do with them, they are now in a starving condition?' I said: 'Mr. Catelli, you had better interview the mayor of the city. Our people will not have people starving in Montreal.' Mr. Catelli had an interview with the mayor, and held several meetings, and appeals to the public charity appeared in the papers every day, and after a time these people seemed to get employment and large numbers of them left the city. Italians came to the 'Star' in large numbers; they were anxious to get statements in the paper. They said they had been brought here by speculators, men who wanted to get from one to ten dollars for securing employment. They stated that they had been grossly deceived and they made these statements to us.

Q. You heard what Mr. Hannaford said here as to the scale of wages paid by the Montreal Street Railway Company; what is your opinion?—A. Well, I do not think that the Montreal Street Railway Company is not more generous than other employers of labour, and when they can get men for \$1.10 they are not going to pay \$1.25; that is not a business proposition. I do not know what the Montreal Street Railway pay people, but why should they pay the average man \$1.25 when they can get the same for \$1.15, that is not business.

Q. Can you tell the Commission of certain classes of labour wherein the wages did go down?—A. I have been told that in various classes wages have been reduced.

By the Commissioner :

Q. Mr. Mack, whose names did those Italians who went to your office mention in connection with bringing them from Italy?—A. They mentioned Mr. Cordasco and several others. At that time I was not so much interested in it as now.

Q. Did they tell you the methods by which they were induced to come?—A. They had been induced by letters, circulars and some of them cards, some on their own responsibility. These had wished to come to see if there were any good positions in Canada, more wages; no need for any man to be out of employment in the Dominion of Canada.

Q. Did you hear before they came if there was a scheme to bring out immigrants to Montreal?—A. For some time I have known that efforts have been made to bring men to Montreal. I know that a Mr. Leopold, who has offices at Charing Cross, London, England, has been very active in inducing men to come here.

Q. Does he reach to Italy?—A. I guess he reaches everywhere; he does a large business.

Q. We have not heard his name in connection with this influx?—A. Well, I am just telling you.

Q. Have you heard anything from any of our public men in Montreal that a large influx was to be brought into Montreal this spring?—A. No, sir. I have not heard from business or public men. I have heard in labour circles that efforts were made to bring out large numbers of men to this country in the event of trouble on the docks and large works going to be constructed.

Q. Just so. What is the minimum wage paid labourers in Montreal to-day?—A. I should imagine about 90c. or \$1.

Q. You think that is the lowest?—A. I think so.

Q. And the maximum?—A. Of skilled labour?

Q. Unskilled labour?—A. Well, of course, there are three or four classes of unskilled about; would you call dockmen unskilled labour?

Q. I think not, they have a trade. That requires special qualifications; could Italian labourers do that work?—A. No, they would be practically useless.

Q. They are good for the pick and shovel, such work as ditching, road-making, &c.?—A. I should imagine they would get all the way from 90c. to \$1.50 a day.

Q. Are there many Italians without work in Montreal?—A. I am told quite a large number.

4-5 EDWARD VII., A. 1905

Q. About how many?—A. Between 500 and 1,000.

Q. Unable to get employment?—A. Unable to get employment.

Q. How are they supported?—A. They are supported by the Italian charity organization, by the central charity organization of the city, and they probably get a little work.

Q. Occasionally, so as to help them on?—A. Yes, they have no permanent work.

Mr. CORDASCO, re-called.

By the Commissioner :

Q. Do you know Signor Silvio of Portland, Maine?—A. I heard his name.

Q. Did you authorize this letter to be sent to that signor?—A. Yes.

Q. You authorized that letter to be sent?—A. Yes.

Q. You wrote:—

'MONTREAL, Jan. 28, 1904.

'Mr. FILAURIO SILVIO,

'101 Fore Street,

'Portland, Me.

'I received your letter in which you say that you want to pass your men in the list of Sabatino Sgamurra.

'I cannot do that for this Sgamurra is neither entered in my books nor has paid, as you and your men did, the office and inscription fees.

'If Mr. Sgamurra will send \$10 as interpreter and \$1 for each man, I shall enter his name in my books and I shall not have any difficulty in putting your lists together, for you have paid.

'The time when your turn will come I will call you.

'Yours truly.'

Q. You would not give another man the benefit of adding his list to a foreman who had already paid, and you demanded \$10 more?—A. I asked.

Q. You demanded that \$10 before allowing the lists to be put together. What paper do you advertise in in New York?—A. Well, I never advertised before, but about six months ago a party on a paper there wrote me a letter and asked me to give it an advertisement. I think it is named 'L'Operari.'

Q. Where is he? I think he is No. 4 Mulberry Street?—A. That is not the name, perhaps you have got another man.

Q. Capparelli?—A. That is the man.

Q. What is the name of his paper?—A. 'L'Operari.'

Q. When did you put your advertisement in that paper?—A. Five or six months ago.

Q. Have you got a copy?—A. No.

Q. Did he send you the paper?—A. Yes.

Q. Where is it?—A. I have not got it.

Q. What was the advertisement about?—A. Something about shipping money, same as advertisement in 'Corriere del Canada,' saying that I would place the men. I made that advertisement myself.

Q. On the 18th January, 1904, you wrote to Mr. V. Capparelli:—

'MONTREAL, Jan. 28, 1904.

'Mr. V. CAPPARELLI,

'4 Mulberry St., New York.

'I have received your letter and I beg to enclose herewith check for \$10 on said advertisement, &c., as per agreement. Please acknowledge receipt.

'Please make an article speaking about the negligence of this Consul and Italian Immigration Aid Society.

SESSIONAL PAPER No. 36b.

'I am from San Donato Ninca, and Mr. Cordasco, the lawyer, is my uncle.

'By the same mail I am sending you my cut.

'Yours truly.'

Q. Always put your picture in?—A. I expect them to; I do not try to deny this, but this work was done by notary.

Q. Will you give me a copy?—A. Will you let Mr. Ganna get this.

Q. For this afternoon?—A. If there is one he will get it.

Q. When was this arrangement in writing made between Mr. Burns and you?—

A. In writing, Your Honour; there was nothing in writing. When he was talking about taking \$1 for the men?

Q. Yes?—A. It took place some time in the month of April or May.

Q. What time in April?—A. I cannot remember the date.

Q. You cannot remember the date?—A. No.

Q. Look at your accounts and tell me the date?—A. Some time in April, I cannot say the date.

Q. Is that the date, April 13th (handing paper to witness)?—A. Yes.

Q. That was the date?—A. That was the time he spoke.

Q. Now, you wrote Mr. Burns on the 29th April, in which you say:

'As you know personally that I do not receive any salary from your company, only paid by the day or by the hour, if some fees come to me from Italian labourers this is an honest deal and no one was or will be forced if he does not wish to do so.'

Q. Was that true; were you paid at that date by the day or by the hour as you mention in your letter of the 29th April?—A. He began to pay me by the hour, by the half day, and if I did nothing he gave me nothing.

Q. You understood that on the 29th April; look at that letter?—A. Well, that was made in April some time.

Q. And here you have made a charge on the 18th April?—A. I was not agreeing with this agreement.

Q. So that there was really no agreement?—A. Just a verbal agreement.

Q. I do not know who to believe, Cordasco or Cordasco's letter?—A. I did not know the nature of it.

Q. Now you say one thing in your letter and another in the accounts, which is correct. So you were still paid by the day?—A. I was paid even before April.

Q. You were paid by the day?—A. By the full day.

Q. That is what you are charging now?—A. Not going to charge anything now by the day. This must be stated, because I understand Mr. Burns told me he would not agree to give it.

Q. Was this \$1 spoken of in order to give evidence to this Commission?—A. No.

Q. No trouble in your mind?—A. Nothing.

Q. Not to provide against trouble?—A. No.

Q. Mr. Burns has not paid you a single cent since. The reason why is because he had some trouble with that judgment and probably wanted to see how the judgment was going to work out, that is why?—A. He kept my money back anyway.

Q. So you were still charging up to the 29th April?—A. There is the letter there.

Q. And you say that letter is true?—A. Yes, I cannot pay expenses over \$100 per month in office besides my house.

Q. How much in all?—A. About \$300.

Q. \$300?—A. With my wages, clerks and my office and everything in office probably cost more than \$300 besides my house.

Q. Never mind the house. Did you not say that it was only \$40 for the rent of your office?—A. \$45 for Ganna, \$90 for Cordasco, then Mosco and paying women for scrubbing.

Q. How long have you been paying Mosco?—A. Maybe couple of months.

4-5 EDWARD VII., A. 1905

Q. How had you paid him before?—A. I gave him so much by the job.

Q. How much?—A. Sometimes \$1, \$2 or \$3 I cannot say.

Q. By the month?—A. It was not fixed by the month.

Q. How long have you been paying Mosco \$6 per month?—A. Two or three months, I can give it to you.

Q. Two or three months?—A. Yes.

Q. And now you pay Mosco \$6 per month?—A. \$6 per week.

Q. Since when have you been so paying him?—A. Two months ago. Before that by the job, when working for Canadian Pacific Railway.

Q. Now do not say that?—A. I can prove it.

Q. That is not correct?—A. I say this, I have something to prove that. Mosco will not swear to that.

Q. Will you show me how much you paid Mosco in December?—A. There is nothing in the book, no entry.

Q. You always kept that sort of thing out of the book? You have no book to show it?—A. Nothing at all.

Q. You have some receipt attached to bill signed by him?—A. Before I had put them in.

Q. You have told him to swear that you have paid him \$5, \$10, \$15, \$20 before that?—A. Yes.

Q. Why did you tell him to swear that?—A. You can get Mosco at any time.

Q. I do not think that is quite correct, Mr. Cordasco, so far as Mr. Mosco is concerned.

Q. Mr. Skinner deducted some money from your wages or accounts for December last?—A. Yes.

Q. You raised some trouble about that?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Is that the letter you wrote to Mr. Skinner?—A. Yes, I just got it. I am paid.

Q. That is the letter you wrote to Mr. Burns?—A. Yes, Your Honour.

Q. You complained about some \$26 there?—A. I got \$26.

Q. Mr. Burns directed Mr. Skinner to pay you?—A. Because it was due for getting the office cleaned, and I got the money back.

Q. But in so far as the other portion, he would not interfere?—A. Would not give me a dollar.

Q. In that you say that the money that you earned was for going to meet No. 8 and No. 2?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Nothing more?—A. Looking after Italians, placing them in boarding houses.

Q. Not when you were sick?—A. Had somebody else.

Q. Did Francesco Cordasco work for the company?—A. No, Gagliardi.

Q. You wrote to Mr. Burns on February 8 last:—

‘Dear Sir,—I have worked for you December, 1901, December, 1902, and I met only No. 2, and I was paid my five dollars without any trouble.’

—A. That is right.

Q. Just met No. 2?—A. Looking after men.

Q. You say: ‘I met only No. 2 and I was paid my five dollars without any trouble’?—A. I did.

Q. ‘Now, this year I was cut off \$20 in October, \$20 in November, and \$66 in December, 13 days and Lancy puts all the blame on Skinner, so I can see that Skinner has went on like blind and crazy man. He went over my bill and cut off 13 days from one month, which I have worked the harder in the years.’—A. That is right.

Q. Mr. Skinner would not allow that even if Mr. Burns said so?—A. I don’t know.

Q. He did not allow it?—A. I don’t know how they fixed it up.

Q. You say that in 1901 you always got your five dollars even when you only met No. 2?—A. Yes, and looking after the men.

SESSIONAL PAPER No. 36b.

Q. Not much looking after men when meeting No. 2?—A. Have conducted men to boarding houses.

Q. Are these amounts for 1902 or 1903?—A. I think so.

Q. Five dollars for every day, Saturdays and Sundays, during six months?—A. Because I worked every day.

Q. Sunday and Saturday?—A. Met the men every day.

Q. Will you kindly let me know what you were doing during the months of, say, April, May, June, July, August, September, October, November and December on any of these days?—A. I cannot tell you.

Q. Can you tell me what you were doing on any of these Sundays?—A. Met the trains.

Q. How long were you at train?—A. Sometimes they are on time and sometimes four or five hours late.

Q. Not on time in general?—A. I do not say that they are behind all the time; some days they are and we had to be there.

Q. How long would you be there?—A. To take men away from train?

Q. How long?—A. Take some time.

Q. How long?—A. Some weeks men come on every train.

Q. What men came on No. 2?—A. Sometimes none.

Q. A great many times none?—A. Yes. I went there and came home and reported no men.

Q. That is five dollars. That is how you work up accounts against the Canadian Pacific Railway. How would the Canadian Pacific Railway know if they were correct or incorrect?—A. I put in my bill.

Q. By whom were they certified?—A. I gave them to Mr. Burns.

Q. Mr. Burns certified them and that is how you made money easily during these years, getting five dollars a day for such work?—A. Probably there was translation.

Q. Now, is not translation an additional charge?—A. I get five dollars.

Q. Just for these days?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. And yet you made an agreement that you were to get paid according to the number of hours you were working. This was done in 1902, and Mr. Skinner was the first one to carry that agreement out, to make you carry it out?—A. My agreement was, I had supposed—

Q. Mr. Skinner was the first man to object?—A. Mr. Skinner was the first man who ever did the thing.

Q. This was in 1903, you were sending in your bills until Mr. Skinner cut some off?—A. I have worked every day and got paid for it.

Q. Although a great number of times there would not be an Italian coming to the city of Montreal?—A. Sometimes.

Q. A great number?—A. I said some.

Q. I want you to give me something definite?—A. If you want me to say, a few times.

Q. How many days?—A. I cannot state.

Q. How many times did you translate?—A. Very often.

Q. Who did this translation for you?—A. Cordasco did not do it. Ganna put it in better English than I could.

Q. Do you remember Gaetano Lapatria?—A. Yes.

Q. What was the trouble with him?—A. He shipped two or three gangs the first time and then did not come to me at all, tried to go alone.

Q. He was a good man when you shipped him?—A. I say he was.

Q. He was a good man, was he?—A. A nice fellow.

Q. A good worker, I mean?—A. Yes.

Q. How much did he give you the first year?—A. I do not remember, \$10 or \$20. This year he tried to get around me and not pay anything.

Q. He would not go to you, afterwards he went to the roadmaster direct?—A. Yes, went to roadmaster.

4-5 EDWARD VII., A. 1905

Q. On April 23 you wrote to Mr. Burns about Mr. Lapatria?—A. I think so.

Q. Is this your letter?—A. Yes.

Q. Did you write that?—A. I wrote most of it and got Ganna to help me.

Q. This is how it reads:—

April 23rd, 1904.

G. E. Burns, Esq.,
Special Agent, G.T.R.,
Room 15, Windsor Street.

(Di Patrick)

Dear Sir,—*Re* George Patrie, or right name is Gaetano Lapatria, as this Italian interpreter was in correspondence with Roadmaster Milloy, for some time and years as per orders came to my labour office, 375 St. James, and he brought 40 Italians to be engaged to work on the Ontario Division, and he made believe that all this crowd Italians each of them was working on the same division last summer. This is all wrong, and I found it out that very few did work for such master last year, and most of these 40 are new men, but Patrie pretends they are the men who worked for him last year, and this is all lie.

Anyhow he forced me to take the 40 Italians and good many of these men are worthless, and I could give him a good body of labourers if I was to deal with my opinion myself. Some roadmasters are getting some fees from these young interpreters, and there is why call directly those Italians.

If the general manager of the Canadian Pacific Railway would witness all this work and see such people, Italian labourers that Mr. George Patrie takes with them, and I am sure he would fire out roadmaster, foreman and someone else. This man Patrie he tried his best and tried to force me to give a contract to a boy 16 years old, and this application was refused, because he was not strong enough to handle rails and other kind like. Patrie himself when he saw that I refused to give contract to the young man he promised him he would take him all same and guarantee full summer wages.

The information I give you and your company is only to do my duty and nothing else.

This crowd will go to-night to Sharbot lake.

Your Servant.

Q. They did not pay?—A. No, sir.

Q. Mr. Milloy hired them without their going through the books in your office?—A. I don't know.

Q. You said so. You got instructions from Di Patrick to give a contract which you would not, because they could not employ anyone who did not come through your office?—A. I do not know.

Q. Then you wrote to Mr. Burns on April 29, 1904 :

'Dear Sir,—Attached you will find a list of names which they been left in Montreal and each of them worked under Roadmaster Milloy and Italian Interpreter George Di Patrick. He hired green Italians and charged each of them from one dollar up to two.

'This is another proof which shows that every one is charging, and Di Patrick he made believe his roadmaster and your company that he only hired the same gang of last summer.

'Your servant, A. Cordasco.'

Q. Then on May 21, 1904, you wrote this letter to Mr. Burns; look at the letter?—A. I do Your Honour.

Q. You wrote this letter?—A. Yes.

Q. (Reading).

'Dear Sir:—

'What I can approach and think from Fred Tannents that most of the 27 Italians which they brought a law suit against Canadian Pacific Railway, are working on

the new shop track yard and Peter Lepere, chief leader of Alberto Dini he can be blamed as he tells everyone around that work that none of my men will be taken and given work even the old English foreman, Mr. McCarthy, is against and if Pietro Lepere could be dismissed from such work of the new shop then Dini would have no more chance and any of the Italian goes with a piece of paper signed by A. Dini work ready for him.

‘I would be glad to go over there with you and I would be able to point and show good many new things.

‘Your servant,

‘A. CORDASCO.’

Q. You wished the foreman dismissed because he was employing men through Dini?—A. No, it was because—

Q. That is what you wrote?—A. Yes.

Q. Why want him dismissed?—A. Because he writes my men.

Q. Peter Lepere?—A. Yes.

Q. Where is he working?—A. For the Canadian Pacific Railway.

Q. And he took men through Dini?—A. That is the report I got.

Q. And you asked Mr. Burns to have him dismissed?—A. I did.

Q. So as to prevent him engaging men?—A. I had men myself waiting on the Canadian Pacific Railway, why take other men.

Q. There is another letter you wrote to Mr. Burns on the 21st May, 1904, you said:—

‘Dear Sir:—

‘For your information, Mr. Paul Christopher, Italian foreman, left last night for Megantic to work on the Canadian Pacific Railway track line.

‘He hired 25 Italians and brought them with him and none of them signed any contract and as far as I can find out this morning by a relation of Mr. Christopher that pass was sent to him directly from Farnham sure.

‘Your servant,

‘A. CORDASCO.’

‘P.S.—Funny thing to hear and stranger that Mr. Williams, superintendent, said that no labour was needed on his division.’

Q. Mr. Williams’ division?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. You objected to these men being employed unless they came through your office?—A. No, for nothing at all.

Q. How many paid \$25?—A. I cannot say.

Q. About 100?—A. If you say 10,000 or 15,000 of these men that came from the other side.

Q. I only want to know how many paid \$25?—A. I cannot say.

Q. \$50?—A. No.

Q. \$25?—A. Maybe.

Q. You wrote this letter dated 10th May, 1904, to Mr. Burns:—

‘Dear Sir:—

‘Re Information.

‘Arrived by way of Chiasso over 300 Italians and nearly 200 by New York. Sure will be a disgraceful for these poor emmigrants with the old ones which they put up here all winter and Italian Consul with his Society are to be blamed and they should be crushed to peace,

‘Your servant,

‘A. CORDASCO.’

A. Yes, sir.

4-5 EDWARD VII., A. 1905

Q. You also wrote Mr. Burns this long letter on the 21st March, 1904? (Letter produced.) —A. Yes, sir.

Q. It reads as follows:—

‘MONTREAL, 21st March, 1904.

‘G. E. BURNS, Esq.,

‘Special Agent,

‘Room 15, Windsor St. Station, C. P. R.

‘Dear Sir:—

‘As the opening of work is very near to supply labourers on the railway constructions and track work then I take the liberty as to inform you the way I furnish Italian labourers and charging of fees to each of labourers and each Italian interpreter or foreman.

‘1. I do charge Italian labourers some times \$3 some times \$2 some times \$1 some times nothing same thing for Italian interpreters according reason I charge each of them from nothing up to \$15 according to ability of them if are able to pay.

‘2. Each of them must satisfy me if he can take such charge and if he is competent to understand track work building grade and so on.

‘3. No interpreter or labourer shall be employed by me for matter of fees only but must satisfy me if they are able to carry their agreement.

‘4. I can make thousand of dollars according number of men I do employ and foreman or interpreter too. If your company C. P. R. takes from 3 thousand to 5 thousand labourers and foremen too then between ten thousand or more can be made this amount will be my expense with clerks filling contract book helping to check their baggage for the destination point to help me put men aboard train helping to meet them at arrival of different train to load provisions to take them along to such point and lots other expenses which I allway pay out to people while working under my instruction and every shipment I make must never mist on my part everything must go same as a clock.

‘5. As you well informed and you have witnesses the way I do handle my labourers then I let you and authorise you to deal with your chiefs to decide and make me my honest and hard work value.

‘I agree to supply your Honorable Company from one man up to good many thousands Italian labourers according orders and have each of these Italian labourers and each of the interpreters to well understood and to explain each of them the contract which they may sign in their own way in Italian so as to avoid trouble unless some one may put in claim for no reason or he may be unting up from some sun fish which they have no business in their hent and working for trouble only.

‘6. I have few thousands ready to go at any moment notice and your company will be supplied before anybody else first.

‘Wishing to have my letter under your consideration and to be dealt accordngli.

‘Your servant,’

‘P.S.—If my letter will be considered I agree to put a sign on the window of my office saying no fees will be charged to the labourers going to work for the Canadian Pacific Railway Company.’

A. Yes.

Mr. JOHN LESLIE, being sworn.

By the Commissioner:

Q. Are you Auditor of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company?—A. Auditor of disbursements.

Q. As such what are your duties with reference to accounts that have been paid by the C.P.R.?—A. They all come under my supervision.

SESSIONAL PAPER No. 36b.

Q. Before they are paid?—A. Yes.

Q. You certify them?—A. I audit them.

Q. What do you mean by auditing them?—A. Well, I see that they are approved by the proper officers of the company, and the extensions and additions, &c., are checked in my office.

Q. Now, for instance, for March, 1904, in Mr. Burns' department, that is just one out of a number of similar ones which have been produced by Mr. Burns, has that been paid?—A. Yes, it is receipted.

Q. Before payment what is done to see if it is correct?—A. Do you mean in my office?

Q. Yes?—A. These bills are totalled, are footed and extensions approved and signatures of the officers examined.

Q. That is all?—A. Yes.

Q. You do not go into the accounts yourself?—A. No, that would be utterly impossible; we have about 13,000 accounts a month.

Q. Oh yes, I understand that, but on whom would you rely for the correctness of these accounts?—A. I would rely on Mr. Burns.

Q. For all these accounts?—A. Yes.

Q. You do not go behind him?—A. No.

Q. What is Mr. Burns' salary?—A. His salary is at present \$200 per month.

Q. When was that commenced?—A. I think from the 1st of January.

Q. What was it before that?—A. \$175.

Q. Have you the papers?—A. Yes. (Hands them to the Commissioner, who says: You might just leave these with me, I will return them to you).

Adjourned to 2.30 p.m.

MONTREAL, September 26, 1904.

COURT HOUSE, 2.30 P.M.

The Commissioner resumes.

Mr. CORDASCO re-examined.

By the Commissioner:

Q. You know Domenico Zappia?—A. I do not remember having seen him.

Q. Do you remember having received that letter from him dated January 27, 1904?
—A. I may have seen it at the time I was laid up.

Q. Where is that from?—A. Staiti.

Q. Where is that, not in Italy?—A. No, I don't know.

Q. Look and see whether he tells you or not. Don't you think that is in Italy?—
A. I don't think so.

Q. Ganna gave you that information, I suppose?—A. He may have.

Q. Ask him if he can tell you?—A. I do not know whether it is from the States,
is it Ganna?

Mr. GANNA.—It is from Italy.

The WITNESS.—It must have been a strange name to me.

By the Commissioner:

Q. You can read that, I suppose?—A. If you give me the letter. (Reads):—

4-5 EDWARD VII., A. 1905

‘Mr. ANTONIO CORDASCO,
‘Railway Agent, Montreal Canada.

‘STAITI, January 27, 1904.

‘Although I do not deserve to have the honour to be acquainted with your highly respectable person, I take the liberty of writing directly to you asking you a favour.

‘As there are here about seventy men who wish to emigrate to that country, I wish you would be kind enough to receive my countrymen passengers on their landing in that part, and tell me which will be the best spot where they can be visited.

‘In obliging me with a favour answer, please tell me when the works under your control will be started. I was pushed to write this letter by the noble and good reputation your name enjoys in this country. Please let me know which will be the best landing port on account of the visit.

‘If I shall be able to reciprocate such an obligation I offer you my services if you will please yourself and command me.

‘Please accept my unlimited gratitude, &c.

‘Yours,

‘DOMENICO ZAPPIA.’

‘P.S.—I wish to know how much costs there, via New York or Boston.

‘I beg you to answer me at once, otherwise I cannot make the men start. Please also let me know something about the age of the men, and if men over 60 years of age will be accepted; if they will be received by you and how they have to answer to the inquiries.’

Q. Do you remember receiving that?—A. I do not remember.

Q. What was your answer?—A. I do not know, I cannot say.

Q. See if it is in your letter book?—A. I have it here, March 2.

Q. You wrote him on March 2. Look at that letter and see where is Staiti. It is in Calabria, is it not?—A. I cannot say.

Q. Look at your letter, what is the man’s address?—A. In Calabria.

Q. You issued a number of tickets for Calabria?—A. I cannot say.

Q. You issued a number of tickets to come from Calabria to Montreal?—A. No.

Q. Look at your letter book and see?—A. What are the tickets, Ganna? I was laid up on March 2; I was not very well.

Q. You were always pretty well able to talk. Now, read that letter of March 2. (Reads) :—

‘Mr. DOMENICO ZAPPIA,
‘Staiti, Prov. Reggio, Calabria.

‘MONTREAL, March 2, 1904.

‘Your favour is before me, and in short I will let you know anything you require. You may send to me as many men as you like and I shall be able to find work for them at \$1.50 per day, board by themselves and the railway fare up and down free.

‘Every man before he goes to work receives a contract that guarantees his pay, &c.

‘You can make your men leave from March 20 or 25 via New York.

‘If you will tell me exactly the day on which the men will leave Naples, with which company and steamer, I will send my agent to meet them in New York. He will put them on board the cars and send them to Montreal without any trouble and without falling into the hands of speculators. If they will land in Boston I will send my Boston agent to meet them.

‘I am sending you a parcel of my business cards, which you will give to your men to be recognized at their landing in New York or Boston.

‘Re the age of the immigrants, you must follow the Italian emigration laws that do not allow passports to people over 45 years old.

‘Awaiting to hear from you,

‘Yours truly,

‘ANTONIO CORDASCO,

‘Per A. GANNA.’

SESSIONAL PAPER No. 36b.

—A. I never knew anything about it, never spoke to anybody about it, never saw such letter.

Q. There is no 10,000 in that?—A. No matter, Your Honour, I never received such a letter.

Q. I received that letter from you?—A. Yes, I suppose.

Q. At your office?—A. You took all my papers.

Q. I got this letter out of your own hands. I asked you for letters received from Italy and you handed this to me. Do you not remember handing this letter to me?—A. I do not remember.

Q. You stated a moment ago that you did not see it. I asked you for it and you handed it to me because I saw a letter to him from you in your letter book?—A. But I do not know this letter.

Q. How dare you deny. Be careful now in your answer, do not attempt to deny?—A. I do, Your Honour, I do not remember having given you the letter.

Q. Now, do you know a man Tommaso Monteverse, Civitanova, Marche?—A. Never knew the man, never heard of place.

Q. What part of Italy is that in? Where is Marche?—A. I don't know.

Q. Well, ask Ganna; he knows?

WITNESS to GANNA.—What province is this in?—MR. GANNA.—Province of Rome.

By the Commissioner :

Q. This letter reads :—

‘MONTREAL, March 3, 1904.

‘MR. TOMMASO MONTEVERSE,

‘Civitanova, Marche,

‘I have before me your favour of February 3, and I have recommended you to a good company, the Transatlantica de Barcelona.’

Q. That is the company you sold a number of tickets for?—A. Yes, one of them.

‘If, as you write, there are many men who wish to come here you may address them to me, and for that purpose, in a separate registered parcel I send you some envelopes and business cards, and you may give one of these cards to each of your passengers, so when they land in New York they will show it and they will be addressed to me.

‘In this season the works are enormous and every man will go to work with an agreement in Italian in which are explained the wages, how long the work will last, &c.

‘Every working man earns \$1.50 and more per day. He is at liberty to board himself and transportation free up and back. I am here to protect, defend and help the workingman.

‘Now, you know how matters stand, and in the event of your going to send me some passengers, send me a list of their names and the name of the steamer so that my agent in New York may go and meet them.

‘Yours truly,

‘ANTONIO CORDASCO,

‘Per A. GANNA.’

Q. Do you remember that letter?—A. I do not.

Q. That was taken out of your letter book?—A. I did not see that. Since your visit I never saw the letter book at all.

Q. Do you remember the last letter you received from Paretti?—A. I think I only showed you one.

Q. You were not sick then?—A. I do not remember.

Q. On May 8?—A. I do not think I was sick then.

Q. This letter you handed to me?—A. I told Antonio Ganna to stop all correspondence at that time.

Q. It reads :—

‘UDINE, (ITALIA), May 8, 1904.

‘Mr. ANTONIO CORDASCO, Montreal.

‘In prompt reply to your favour of April 26, which has called my attention and surprise to the facts you have mentioned and which is in full contradiction with the other of the 6th of the same month, in which you complained that I did not send passengers addressed to you with your business card. Now, I must tell you that it is not my system, after 22 years’ experience in emigration, to advise or not the passengers who are at liberty to do what they like. This is my principle.

‘All our emigrants addressed to Canada were booked for beyond Montreal, and we are sure of that, for our companies do not give railway tickets beyond your residence.

‘I gave the address to nobody, only to those who read your newspapers, full of promises. I answered giving good references of your firm.

‘You must have great experience, and you must know that everybody can come and say what he likes, coming to you without a written line.

‘Be sure that we are very careful, and we hope you will be too, and we quite understand when something happens that cannot be helped. This year everything has been against us, but we hope better days will come.

‘Yours truly,

‘PARETTI.’

—A. I never authorized anything with reference to this letter, never authorized Antonio Ganna or any other man.

Q. Do you know Joseph Guertin?—A. I do, Your Honour.

Q. A great friend of yours?—A. A good friend of mine.

Q. And you reported to Mr. Burns about him?—A. Probably I did, Your Honour.

Q. Reported in favour of his discharge?—A. Well,—

Q. Did you?—A. Probably I did.

Q. Because he had been receiving 50c. or so from the men?—A. 50c. He got \$3, probably more than \$3.

Q. You say 50c. in your letter. You got him discharged from the service of the Canadian Pacific Railway?—A. He told me 50c.

Q. On the 28th February last you wrote him and stated if he wished to go to Europe you could get him a pass?—A. Yes.

Q. On the 30th May you wrote to Mr. Burns charging him with having collected fees and suggesting his discharge?—A. I just informed him of the fees, as I had a report from Winnipeg from some Italians.

Q. From Franco Cordasco?—A. Franco was one of the witnesses, one of the causes of Guertin’s trouble.

Q. Your trouble?—A. Not mine.

Q. Whose?—A. Joe Guertin’s.

Q. Now I asked you before can you give me the names and times of applications for those who were first sent you, whether they were subsequent to those who first applied, can you give me names. Do you know Giacci?—A. Yes.

Q. When was he registered?—A. I think in March.

Q. He signed a note to you?—A. I think it is past due.

Q. It is not due. DelVecchio, do you remember him?—A. He has gone.

Q. Had he ever been foreman before this morning?—A. He told me he was for two years.

Q. He was, in Boston?—A. No, on the Canadian Pacific Railway.

Q. He was on the Canadian Pacific Railway two years as foreman?—A. As workman.

Q. You sent him as foreman?—A. Yes.

Q. Then he had never been foreman on the Canadian Pacific Railway?—A. Not on the Canadian Pacific Railway; is he a Boston man?

SESSIONAL PAPER No. 36b.

Q. Yes. It was not because he did not send his name?—A. When did he send his name?

Q. Giacci sent his name some time in March, this man is registered some time in November?—A. What date?

Q. November, some time in November. There is Giacci on 4th February. How is this?—A. Giacci told me that he had nothing to do any more, neither his brother nor himself.

Q. Will you look at page 24 and see about DelVecchio. What date is he registered?—A. February 9th.

Q. You knew he registered his name in November?—A. I entered his name on the 9th February myself.

Q. Are these all men who paid \$3 marked \$2 and \$1?—A. Yes, some paid \$2.

Q. They have not gone?—A. They have all gone; I think there is not one here.

Q. Any of those marked only \$2 gone?—A. I think so.

Q. Well, make sure you have DelVecchio last. How many did he take away?—A. About 45 or 50.

Q. There is Mighnelli, when was he registered?—A. 16th December.

Q. He has not gone yet?—A. No.

Q. How many subsequent to his registration have gone?—A. 11 or 12.

Q. Subsequent to his?—A. Only two in this.

Q. Why did you not send him, because you could not, you had loaned this man money?—A. No matter.

Q. As a matter of fact you had; Boconcelli was one, he owes you \$380. Who is the other one?—A. Mello.

Q. Nearly \$400. So that they were sent out instead of the earlier men.

Q. This is the little constitution of Immigration Aid Society No. 1, which you wished to have read publicly as requested in your letter of the 11th July, 1904. Here is article 2:—

‘Art. 2. The first object of the society is to assist and encourage Italian emigrants to come to Canada, the assistance to be given more especially as set forth in the following articles of this section.’

Then article 18:—

‘Art. 18. Will provide a place of temporary shelter for such Italian emigrants who upon their arrival from Italy might be without friends or relatives, in Canada, to assist them as much as possible; or will advise them where they may find both board and lodging and such other aid, advice and attention as they may stand in immediate need of.’

Now article 51 says:—

‘Art. 51. Count Francesco Mazza, Consul General of His Majesty the King of Italy for the Dominion of Canada, will be the Honourary President of the Society, for the time he will remain in Canada, to be succeeded by his successor in office.’

Q. That is what you wished me to read, that is all you asked here? (Showing witness letter.)—A. Yes, Your Honour.

Q. Have you paid Mr. Burns any money in connection with your employment?—A. Not one dollar.

Q. Not one dollar?—A. No, sir.

Q. Have you paid any moneys to any person else?—A. As far as I am aware, there are a few dollars given when Mr. Guertin was here.

Q. Given to whom?—A. Mr. Guertin. At times \$5; once \$27. He took it all right.

Q. Did you make a present to any lady in Montreal on account of business relations?—A. I do not remember.

Q. Will you swear that you have not?—A. I do not remember, I can swear that I do not remember. If you have anything to show, all right.

Q. Now, try and recollect about it?—A. I cannot remember.

Q. Is that as far as you will go?—A. That is as far.

Q. If it is stated on oath that you have paid a lady in consequence of your relations with her husband in connection with the Italian immigration, will you deny it?—A. I never paid any money.

Q. To any lady?—A. Not that I remember.

Q. That is as far as you will go?—A. I do not remember having paid any money.

Q. Have you paid any money to a lady whose husband is an employee of the Canadian Pacific Railway?—A. I do not remember if I never lent 50c.

Q. Fifty cents, we are not talking about 50c.?—A. I never remember giving money to anybody.

Q. Not a larger sum than 50c.?—A. One or two dollars to Italians, poor men.

Q. Employees of the Canadian Pacific Railway?—A. No, sir.

Q. That is as far as you will go?—A. That is all I can tell.

Q. That is all I wish to ask you at present.

Mr. NICOLA Mosco, being sworn. (Through interpreter.)

By the Commissioner :

Q. What is your occupation ?—A. I am working for Mr. Cordasco.

Q. When did you commence to work for Cordasco?—A. From last year until the present time.

Q. By the month?—A. I am working now by the week.

Q. When did you commence by the week ?—A. About two months ago.

Q. That would be the first of June to the first of May?—A. I forget, I think it is two months.

Q. Now, then, were you working for him before that?—A. Yes, was sent to Boston and New York.

Q. While you were in Montreal what were you doing for Cordasco?—A. Helping in any way, going to the station, helping every day, sometimes 15 days without work.

Q. Do you keep a boarding house besides working?—A. Yes.

Q. How many boarders have you?—A. Sometimes 30, 40, 60. That is what I make the most money out of, boarding; he charges \$2.50 a week.

Q. What were you doing last November?—A. Working for Mr. Cordasco, sent me to station.

Q. What was the rate of wages?—A. I think, \$1.50 per day.

Q. You think that?—A. Yes, \$1.50.

Q. Did you get paid \$1.50?—A. When I worked he paid me.

Q. How often did you work in November? Did you work every day in that month?

—A. I do not remember.

Q. Do you remember how much money you got in November?—A. Sometimes I got \$5, sometimes \$10. I forget now exactly what he gave me.

Q. Did Mr. Cordasco tell you last night that you must come here and swear that you got \$45 in November?—A. No, sir.

Q. Did not Cordasco tell you that?—A. No, sir.

Q. Did you have a conversation with Cordasco this morning?—A. No, sir, I have not seen him at all.

Q. And how much money did you get for that receipt?—A. I gave the receipt for what I got.

Q. How many months did that receipt cover, \$45?—A. Yes, I gave my receipt, I think for one month.

Mr. BURNS re-called.

Q. You told me the other day that Mr. Cordasco got paid \$5 for every whole day and a certain proportion for a lesser number of hours?—A. Yes, sir.

SESSIONAL PAPER No. 36b.

Q. Will you look at that account for May, 1903, and tell me exactly how many days he got paid for?—A. He got paid for the full month.

Q. Was he employed every day, full days, during that month. Look at the account :

1. Shipping 31 men, 2 bosses and foremen, hiring Italians for roadmaster at Toronto.

3. Filling up contract books and reports.

4. " " "

A. I may say that takes a long time.

Q. By whom?—A. I suppose it is done in his office.

Q. By whom, by Cordasco?—A. By some of his staff.

Q. What are contract books?—A. They are duplicates of that plan of contract I referred to you.

Q. When are they filled up, before or after?—A. After.

6. Getting Italian labour.

7. Filling up contract books.

8. " " "

9. " " "

10. " " "

11. Report *re* Italians.

12. Hunting up Italians for the west.

13. I do not know what that is for.

Q. You do not know?—A. I have forgotten.

14. Hunting Italians for west.

15. Getting Italians.

16. Hunting Italians.

17. Shipping 32 to Schreiber.

18. Brought in report *re* Italians

A. That was a special investigation.

19. Getting Italian labour ready for west.

20. " " "

21. " " "

22. " " "

24. " " "

25. " " "

27. Hunting for Vancouver shops.

28. Hunting for eight Italians work in Vancouver.

29. Hunting up two men, both having cases against C. P. R., by order of Mr. Lancey.

30. Hunting up two men, for Mr. Laney.

31. Inquiring again for somebody to leave for Toronto to work upon a new building there.

A. I may state, Your Honour, that last year the work started a great deal earlier than this year and we were shipping larger numbers, and by this time last year we had started out over 2,000.

Q. And how many have you up to the present time?—A. About 700.

Q. His time was pretty well occupied Saturday and Sunday?—A. Yes.

Q. Does the account put in show the correct number of days he worked?—A. I presume so.

Q. And it was not until Mr. Skinner reduced the three months in 1903 that there was any difficulty about it?—A. There was an accurate check kept on Cordasco since Mr. Skinner has been put in the office; that is the reason he was put in.

4-5 EDWARD VII., A. 1905

Q. Mr. Skinner knocked \$26 off his account for December, 1903?—A. Yes, I remember that.

Q. You thought that it was too late that he ought to be careful?—A. I thought Mr. Skinner made a mistake in not making a bargain before that.

Q. With Cordasco?—A. Yes.

Q. You wrote to Mr. Timmerman on the 18th May, I think you told me about that?—A. Yes, Your Honour.

Q. To discharge a man named Fonnero in your employ?—A. I asked to have him discharged a year ago last April.

Q. And you discharged him on April 15?—A. I asked to have him discharged.

Q. And on November 18, 1903, Mr. Guertin wrote you from Winnipeg :—

‘As per my wire of yesterday, I have dispensed with the services of Albert Fonnero.

‘Fonnero arrived here from the west on the 17th of last month, and as there were a great many Italians returning and we were having trouble daily around the station here, I thought it advisable to keep him here for a short time at least, and when not occupied with the Italians his time could be put in as watchman.

‘He has done some excellent work here, and especially in that case at Portage la Prairie, and his assistance in Winnipeg has saved the company several hundreds of dollars. However, as per your request I have let him go.’

Q. What position did he occupy?—A. He was acting as agent for Mr. Guertin, my inspector at Winnipeg.

Q. The same as acting foreman?—A. Yes.

Q. And he was charging the men?—A. I had no direct evidence of that.

Q. You had Mr. Cordasco’s evidence, and he reported?—A. That was not the reason he was discharged; there were other reasons besides that.

Q. Was not that the reason Mr. Guertin was dismissed, matters relating to this Italian business?—A. Mr. Guertin was discharged for other matters outside of that altogether.

Q. You wrote to Mr. Guertin on November 24, 1903. He and Cordasco had some unfortunate correspondence between them.

Q. About this Mr. Fonnero?—A. Yes, Your Honour.

Q. You wrote in that letter :—

‘So far as the men coming from the States is concerned, Cordasco gets nothing out of them whatever, and he is paid by me here for handling them.’

—A. I wrote that.

‘The foremen who went out from here (Montreal) certainly did pay Cordasco a fee, which, I believe, in most instances is ten dollars, although he has received from a few fifteen dollars.’

Q. That is on November 24 last?—A. Yes.

Q. You have here stated that he does receive fees in the States?—A. If I have stated so I guess it was correct.

Q. His book will show you that?—A. I have never seen his book.

Q. Did the men report to you that any had paid?—A. From the United States?

Q. From the United States?—A. No.

Q. None of them?—A. No, sir.

Q. Do you remember Franceso Di Franco?—A. I do not remember the correspondence with him.

Q. He applied for the purpose of supplying you with labour?—A. This was last April; I think he applied to the general manager.

Q. You remember he stated that he had paid money to Cordasco while he was in the United States?—A. No, Your Honour, I have no recollection of his making that statement. It is possible he may have in the correspondence. I do not recollect.

Q. You do not recollect that?—A. No, Your Honour.

Q. Are your bank accounts in these books, Mr. Burns?—A. In that one.

SESSIONAL PAPER No. 36b.

Q. Have you any other bank account but that?—A. None whatever. None for five years.

Q. These are your wife's?—A. Yes.

Q. Both of them?—A. Yes.

Q. I think you mentioned where she got money from?—A. As soon as she wants any money.

Q. All these moneys are paid by you?—A. Yes.

Q. Every cent?—A. Yes.

Q. Out of your own bank account?—A. I have no bank account.

Q. Had you a bank account?—A. No.

Q. None at all?—A. No, sir. Never had one for five years.

Q. Have you any account of expenses, cash expenses?—A. Well, I have a general account entered every day to know how I stand with the company and with myself.

Q. Will you let me see that one as well as your cash account, it is not for publication at all?—A. What account?

Q. Where you enter your receipts?—A. I have no such account; all I have is a statement of the moneys advanced to me by the company, and as far as other accounts are concerned, I keep no track at all.

Q. You say all moneys in this account are Mrs. Burns' ?—A. Yes.

Q. And paid by you to her?—A. Yes, Your Honour.

Q. That is all I wish to ask you.—A. May I make a statement in regard to the evidence of Mr. Candori yesterday, Your Honour, or would it be more convenient later on.

Q. I do not know, I have not got through with Mr. Cordasco yet.—A. It is simply in regard to the statement that he made in relation to notifying me that Cordasco was overcharging.

Q. I have no objection to your making that statement now.—A. I admit that on several occasions Mr. Candori has come to my office and in my remembrance on one occasion claimed that there had been an overcharge by Cordasco, and I also admit that, as he stated, he told me that Cordasco was charging \$1 for these tickets that were supposed to be given free by him for the return of Italians to the States, but I do state that in every case I made a thorough investigation, and that after the investigation was over I was not positive that the statements were correct and, in fact, I could have stated that every complaint ever lodged with me personally or with the people in my office in regard to the ill-treatment of Italians either by Mr. Candori or anybody else has always been looked into as thoroughly as possible, but Your Honour must know that in investigating these Italian cases there is great difficulty in getting at the truth.

Q. I have found that myself.—A. And I think if you will examine Mr. Skinner on that point you will find he will corroborate everything I say in that regard, that we took every precaution to ascertain whether these men had been overcharged. On one occasion I went straight to Cordasco and got a statement from him denying the charge and after warning him, as I always did, the matter dropped. Then as to Mr. Candori's statement that I said I did not care a damn what Cordasco charged as long as I did my duty to the Canadian Pacific Railway, I think Mr. Candori must have made a mistake: I think he must have said fees, regular fees under the old arrangement when I said I did not care what he charged. I wish also to make a few remarks in regard to the insinuations that have been made in regard to my being mixed up with these moneys.

Q. You stated that you heard that a year ago?—A. Well, I wish to offer some evidence which I think ought to convince any sane person conclusively that I had nothing whatever to do with this money.

Q. I have no objection to hear any evidence you wish, not the slightest objection?—A. When Mr. Mackenzie King, Deputy Minister of Labour, first came here to investigate the matter, he first came to my office, and I think it was Mr. Skinner who received him first, after which he went into Mr. Cordasco's office the following day. Cordasco asked me if this man had a right to come in there, and I replied saying that I did not

4-5-EDWARD VII., A. 1905

know whether he had a right or not, but he was the Deputy Minister of Labour, and if he had no right he could get the right, at any rate. You have nothing to conceal; it is an ordinary licensed labour office, and you had better give him every assistance in your power to help him out. So, acting on that advice, I think, Mr. Cordasco allowed Mr. King in his office, and Mr. King secured a good deal of the material on which Your Honour is conducting this inquiry.

Q. Do you think he got half of what was in that office?—A. Well, I do not know what he got, but at any rate he got something.

Q. Did you know that Cordasco would afterwards deny some of these documents?—A. I did not.

Q. He got Ganna to make a declaration that Mr. King had everything, got everything and Cordasco had nothing?—A. That is not exactly the point.

Q. That is what was there?—A. He would not have got anything unless Cordasco gave it to him. Well then in the next place you yourself came down here and if I had been interested and known that this state of affairs was going to be divulged, and if I had access to Cordasco's books and been personally interested in the matter it is quite certain that Your Honour would not have these incriminating documents here to-day.

Q. Are they incriminating to you?—A. No.

Q. Then why refer to them?—A. I refer to them, if I was mixed up in this matter.

Q. It is for you to judge, but you are no longer giving evidence, you are only arguing to prove your own innocence. It is for me to judge from the facts of the case whether you are guilty or not?—A. I asked to make a statement.

Q. I have to get evidence?—A. I wish to get in evidence that if I had not given every assistance in my power to help this investigation along and as far as I am personally concerned there is nothing to conceal.

Q. Did you state you had a cash account?—A. No.

Q. You say you did not keep any books?—A. I keep a record of what I do. Moneys received and moneys paid out.

Q. I would like to see that. Will you please come up to my room this evening.

By Mr. INTERNOSCIA.—Mr. Candori wishes to say something and would like to go into the box.

The COMMISSIONER.—He can go into the box and give any evidence he wishes.

Mr. CANDORI.—‘I only want to say in answer to what Mr. Burns has just stated that he never said what I said in my last evidence. I may say that his statement was made to me one day when I applied to Mr. Burns’ office, and we went down to see Mr. Cordasco. It was raining and Mr. Cordasco was not in his office and we were standing on the corner of Little St. Antoine and St. James streets, and he said to me exactly this: “I don’t care a damn bit what Cordasco charges provided the business goes on thoroughly well.” This is what Mr. Burns said to me at the corner of Little St. Antoine and St. James streets, and if I don’t make a mistake it was on a Sunday that I made the complaint that Cordasco was charging \$1 to men for free passes.

Mr. TOMASO DI VENDETTI.

Mr. MOWAT.—This witness came to me offering some evidence as to certain doings in connection with the employees of the Dominion Coal Company in which Frank Cordasco was foreman. I do not know what connection Frank Cordasco in that matter has with this investigation, but it will show how Italians were treated.

By the Commissioner:

Q. Is Frank Cordasco an agent of his brother Antonio?—A. Yes.

Q. If he is an agent, then that will answer the purpose.

SESSIONAL PAPER No. 36b.

By Mr. Mowat to witness :

Q. Were you employed in the coal company?—A. Yes.

Q. At the same time as Cordasco?—A. Yes.

Q. Do you know that each pay day a certain amount was deducted out of your wages?—A. Yes.

Q. How much was taken?—A. If you were making over \$10 you had to pay \$1 per week to Frank Cordasco or some other agent.

Q. Where was this?—A. Down here on the wharf.

Q. You saw that, at what period?—A. Last year during the summer from May to November last.

Q. How many men?—A. About 60 or 70.

Q. You were foreman there?—A. Not in his gang. I had nothing to do with that.

Adjourned until 10 a.m., July 26, 1904.

MONTREAL, July 26, 1904,

COURT HOUSE, 10 a.m.

The Commission resumes :

Mr. BURNS, re-called.

By the Commissioner :

Q. You handed me your bank books, Mr. Burns?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. You have not kept a personal bank account for some years until July of this year?—A. No, Your Honour.

Q. The only bank accounts were those of your wife?—A. Yes, Your Honour.

Q. And moneys paid by her are those paid her by you?—A. They were.

Q. Any other sums?—A. Not that I am aware of.

Q. Are you aware whether she has received other sums than those paid by you?—A. Not to my knowledge.

Q. You would know if she had?—A. Yes.

Q. Would you remember when she commenced to keep a bank account?—A. In the spring of 1903.

Q. I see from her bank account that the first deposit was made on April 18 of \$100?—A. I knew it was early in 1903 when the account was kept.

Q. That sum you paid her?—A. Yes.

Q. You received at that time \$175 per month?—A. I did, Your Honour.

Q. This sum was received by you in cash from the Canadian Pacific Railway?—A. Yes.

Q. Then you did not deposit any cheque?—A. No.

Q. Then I find on May 8 she deposited \$140, and on May 27 \$100?—A. Yes.

Q. Where would these two sums come from; these two sums form a larger sum than your salary?—A. I did not draw my salary.

Q. You did not overdraw?—A. Well, sometimes.

Q. These two sums would amount to more than your salary?—A. It is possible, I cannot explain that, Your Honour. It is possible I may have had some funds on hand.

Q. Then on June 2 she deposited \$200?—A. June 2?

Q. 1903. That is a larger sum than your salary, too?—A. I have no recollection of that. It is possible I may have had some funds on hand from the previous month.

Q. Do you know why you made that payment?—A. I cannot tell at the present time.

Q. On July 10 \$100 deposited?—A. Yes, Your Honour.

Q. In August she also deposited \$100?—A. Yes, Your Honour.

Q. In September deposited \$160? In October \$70. I suppose you would be buying your coal about that time?—A. I do not know, I cannot remember these amounts.

Q. But these are amounts in the bank account?—A. I know when my wife wanted money she told me and I got the money. If she wanted \$10 or \$100 I tried to get it.

Q. Had you no other resources than your salary?—A. No, only I always had certain amounts of money on hand for railway expenses.

Q. Belonging to the Canadian Pacific Railway?—A. Yes.

Q. Would not likely use that?—A. I hardly think so; I might have at periods a few dollars.

Q. That is the only way you can account for it?—A. The only way.

Q. November \$120, December \$160, January, 1904, \$225. This is again larger than your salary?—A. What dates in January?

Q. 7th, \$25; 30th, \$200?—A. That of 30th was my January salary.

Q. In December you gave her \$160, and in January \$225, and in February only \$40?—A. It was that I was short in January.

Q. In March, 1904, you gave her \$120, \$31 and \$90, that is \$241 in March of this year; in April you gave her only \$60; in May you gave her \$130, in June you gave her \$210, in July \$50, and you deposited \$150, that is again more than your salary for July?—A. Well Your Honour, I cannot say how much I gave her every month; have you the total amount.

Q. I cannot add that because you did not give her all your money?—A. No.

Q. I should imagine so?—A. I never kept track of it.

Q. You always had money yourself, after giving her some?—A. Yes.

Q. These are sums I have read out of the bank book?—A. I did not examine the bank book before I came here except the total referred to.

Q. Because you did not give all your salary?—A. No.

Q. So besides these sums you had something more?—A. I always had money in my pocket.

Q. And in July you deposited \$150; gave her \$50 and also deposited \$150?—A. In July?

Q. This month?—A. I have forgotten, she asked me for money and got it.

Q. But I mean your own deposit?—A. That \$150 is apparently made up of balance of fund belonging to the company and apparently another amount.

Q. You got a cheque for \$200 then?—A. That formed no part of the \$200.

Q. Did it not?—A. No.

Q. Did you not deposit that \$200 in your own account?—A. No.

Q. I don't know, it is deposited in your bank account on 5th July \$150, 4th July Mrs. Burns \$50?—A. Would not that be some other transaction?

Q. No, no, the same transaction?—A. A part of that \$150 was part of my salary. I do not know, and part was what I had left over in advances I got for certain reasons.

Q. 11th July \$7 and 18th \$20?—A. The \$7 was a balance and I think the \$20 was a loan paid back.

Q. These are the transactions between you and your wife?—A. Yes.

Q. I have just gone over your bank account and you state these are the sums you have paid to Mrs. Burns. Have you purchased any real estate lately, Mr. Burns?—A. No, sir.

Q. That is all I want from you; these are your bank books.

Q. Then as to your statement with reference to the number of people employed; would you just read that out.

The witness reads:—

SESSIONAL PAPER No. 36b.

STATEMENT OF MEN EMPLOYED.

By nationalities:

English.. . . .	1,897
French.. . . .	268
Italian.. . . .	3,144
Swedes.. . . .	262
Norwegians.. . . .	162
Danes.. . . .	91
Fins.. . . .	138
Galatians and Doukabours.. . . .	1,941
Germans.. . . .	69
Hungarians.. . . .	16
Austrians.. . . .	24
Russians.. . . .	26
Swiss.. . . .	1
Greeks.. . . .	55
Poles.. . . .	19
Japanese.. . . .	460
Jews.. . . .	1
Unclassified.. . . .	2
	<hr/> 8,576

Q. Up to this time last year, Mr. Burns, how many Italians had you employed through Cordasco?—A. Well, I cannot give you the exact numbers, but approximately I can tell. I think we started to ship them in 1903 on the 17th March and by May we possibly had 2,000 men.

Q. As against how many this year?—A. 711.

Q. What was the reason for the difference?—A. The principal reason is that the spring was very late. Contract labourmen on the Canadian Pacific Railway could not start away to work until late in the season in any year, but owing to the severity of the winter of 1903-4 contractors were not shipping until late in the season and our first shipment this year took place early in April, whereas the big shipments of 1903 to British Columbia started on the 17th March.

In the second place, there was a large number of immigrants, chiefly Galicians, found their way into the North-west during the spring of this year, and I believe that upwards of 2 000 were employed locally at Winnipeg and distributed over the line. Most of these immigrants, as I said, were Galicians. In the previous year there was no immigration to any extent, and the result was that this year a good many Italians were not hired in the spring.

Q. Do you know how other railroads were affected with reference to Italian labour, were they employing any or as many?—A. I do not know how many they employed. I think there was a number shipped from Montreal.

Q. From reports, I think there were just a few hundreds as compared with last year?—A. I think they shipped out large numbers last year, especially the Grand Trunk, who were double tracking.

Q. You might just leave that statement here?—A. All right, Your Honour.

Mr. GANNA, being re-called.

By the Commissioner :

Q. You heard the evidence of Mr. Cordasco yesterday with reference to the letters written to the States, Mr. Ganna?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Did you write the letters that I produced?—A. No, I think the typewriter wrote them. They were written by Geoffré and addressed by him. I gave only one copy.

Q. Who instructed you as to the tenor of these letters, as to the words that you wrote to these parties?—A. Oh, well, the instruction was only given by Mr. Cordasco the first time for one letter, and I then knew the others, because the letters were just the same.

Q. There were different letters, there were some letters saying that he would not accept names of applicants unless they were accompanied by the money?—A. He said he would not accept their names unless accompanied by the money. We acknowledged receipt of money in others and told them they would go out at first shipments according to our registers.

Q. Who instructed you to answer these?—A. Instructed by Mr. Cordasco.

Q. In every case?—A. Only in one case, that was enough for these letters.

Q. Do you remember writing a letter to Tomasso Monteverse on March 3?—A.

Yes.

Q. Who instructed you to write that letter?—A. I have given instructions for that letter, but Cordasco was in the office that day. I am not sure that he did come down on March 3.

Q. Did you show him the letters as you wrote them?—A. I never showed the letters, but they are put in a basket between my desk and Mr. Cordasco's and sometimes he saw the correspondence, but I do not know if he saw that letter.

Q. Do you remember writing a letter to Domenico Zappia, Calabria?—A. Oh, yes.

Q. By whose instructions did you write that letter?—A. He did not give instructions; I signed that because I knew what must be the answer to this. He had formerly given me instructions and I referred to them.

Q. And in consequence of that, I understand that you wrote all these letters?—A. Yes.

Q. Do you remember this letter from Domenico Zappia?—A. Yes, Your Honour.

Q. Who received that letter do you remember?—A. I never received the correspondence; Mr. Cordasco opened the correspondence, read it, and gave it to me.

Q. Did he tell you to write an answer?—A. Yes, in some cases he said say this, give this answer, or give just the same answer as to the others.

Q. That is what was done?—A. Yes.

Q. Do you remember writing this letter to Zappia?—A. Oh yes, I wrote it.

Q. Is this the English of that?—A. I cannot tell.

Q. You look at the Italian and I will read the English:—

‘MONTREAL, March 2, 1904.

‘MR. DOMENICO ZAPPIA,

‘Staiti, Prov. Reggio, Calabria.

‘Your favour is before me and in short I will let you know anything you require. You may send to me as many men as you like and I shall be able to find work for them at \$1.50 per day, board by themselves, and the railway fare up and down free.

‘Every man, before he goes to work receives a contract that guarantees his pay, &c.

‘You can make your men leave from the 20th or 25th March via New York.

‘If you will tell me exactly the day on which the men will leave Naples, with which company and steamers, I will send my agent to meet them in New York. He will put them on board the cars and send them to Montreal without any trouble and without falling into the hands of speculators. If they will land in Boston I will send my Boston agent to meet them.

‘I am sending to you a parcel of my business cards which you will give to your men to be recognized on landing in New York or Boston.

‘Re the age of the immigrants, you must follow the Italian emigration laws that do not allow passports to people over 45 years old.

‘Waiting to hear from you.

‘Yours truly,

‘ANTONIO CORDASCO,

‘Per A. GANNA.’

SESSIONAL PAPER No. 36b.

Q. Did you send Cordasco's cards with the letter?—A. I think so; I never told him when I sent cards in the letters.

Q. How many business cards?—A. 12 each.

Q. Who is the agent who would meet them in New York?—A. Send an agent to meet any people he supposes are coming.

Q. Who is Mr. Cordasco's agent in New York?—A. I do not know.

Q. Aiello?—He is agent sometimes, he goes to meet people brought to New York, Aiello or some other people.

Q. He writes to the agent of some steamship company to meet them and send them over here?—A. Yes, there is a man named Polynesia.

Q. Where is he?—A. In New York. He is a regular agent for steamships, general agent.

Q. You wrote, 'I will send my agent to meet them in New York'?—A. Some agent, you will understand the general steamship agent.

Q. Is he Cordasco's agent too?—A. Yes.

Q. Has Mr. Cordasco a special agent?—A. Nothing but the steamship agent.

Q. So it was necessary to know the company before notifying your agent?—A. You can ask the general steamship agent to meet the passengers.

Q. And who brought the men from New York to Montreal?—A. No one.

Q. Do you know any one who came over from New York to Montreal, brought here?—A. By Mr. Cordasco, no.

Q. By whom?—A. They came alone.

Q. How many came from Calabria, here?—A. I think in Montreal direct from Italy, there did not come more than three or four from that province.

Q. From Calabria?—A. Yes.

Q. That is as far as you will go?—A. Yes.

Q. How many came here from Chiasso?—A. That is another question, from Chiasso there came about 18 or 20, having business cards printed by Mr. Cordasco.

Q. Printed by Dini?—A. None.

Q. Who do you think they were sent by, Ludwig, for Cordasco?—A. Yes, he sent his paper to about 20 young men coming to Montreal. Mr. Cordasco wrote the men last October, I do not recollect the date.

Q. Do you remember who wrote?—A. Well, I wrote.

Q. How many came from his district through Paretti?—A. I know of 12.

Q. How many came?—A. In the office direct from Paretti, 12.

Q. You have got the names of 10 and they all say they came in consequence of Cordasco's cards and circulars. These men stated that they signed a declaration to that effect, do you know that?—A. Well, perhaps, I do not understand what you say.

Q. These men signed a declaration stating that they came to this country in consequence of circulars and cards from Mr. Cordasco?—A. Because they were receiving newspaper sent by Mr. Cordasco?

Q. Yes.—A. They may have said that. I remember they said they had read in some newspapers some advertisements of Mr. Cordasco.

Q. Here is what ten Italians signed, Mr. Ganna, in Montreal on April 22 last :—

'We, the undersigned, declare as follows : That at the moment of leaving for Canada, Mr. Antonio Paretti has read and shown us a letter signed by Antonio Cordasco, in which he asks for 8,000 or 10,000 labourers from the province of Venete, and in which he promises immediate work as soon as we go to destination. Besides this, we saw circulars and newspapers coming from Montreal, while the photograph of Cordasco circulated in our province encouraging the labourers to emigrate to Canada. Besides that, Paretti distributed the address of Cordasco as above.

(Signed by ten Italians.)

'Montreal, April 22, 1904.'

—A. I remember that very well, because they came to the office and afterwards went to the immigration office, and told them; I remember that very well.

4-5 EDWARD VII., A. 1905

- Q. Will you look at your letter book, page 60, Mr. Ganna, November 4, 1903?—
 A. Yes, Your Honour.
 Q. Can you read that?—A. I cannot read; it is very bad copy.
 Q. How many Italians does he say there?—A. 6,500.
 Q. Is that the letter of November 4, 1903?—A. Yes.
 Q. Cannot you read that; what does it say, about 7,000?—A. I cannot read it.
 Q. This is the letter :—

‘ MONTREAL, November 4, 1903.

‘ GEO. A. RINGLAND, Esq.,

‘ General Passenger Agent,

‘ Canadian Pacific Steamship Line, Atlantic Service,
6 St. Sacramento St., Montreal.

‘ DEAR SIR,—I hereby beg to apply for an agency for second-class steamship tickets for your line.

‘ I represent nine different lines, as per the attached list, and I think I could do considerable business with your company. I do not refer to business to Italy, but I have had a number of inquiries for tickets to Liverpool and London, and I think I could sell a good many for you.

‘ For references as to financial standing, please refer to the Dominion Bank, or if you require a bond, I am willing to put it up. I will also refer you to Mr. G. E. Burns, chief of the labour department, for whom I have been supplying men for a number of years.

‘ I also supply men for the Grand Trunk and a large number of contractors and railway companies in Canada, and in the course of the year get in touch with probably 6,000 or 7,000 Italians.

‘ Will you kindly let me know what you can do for me in the above and oblige,

‘ Yours respectfully,

‘ A. CORDASCO.’

—A. I did not write that letter.

Q. Whose signature is that to that letter in the letter book?—A. That is Mr. Cordasco’s own signature.

Q. That is on November 4, 1903?—A. Yes. I have a letter here written on November 14, 1903.

Q. What steamship line does he write to there?—A. This is a French line; I wrote this letter from a copy he gave me.

Q. You wrote that letter for him?—A. Yes.

Q. He wrote it first and you copied it for him?—A. I think so, I have copied this for him.

Q. This is the letter :

‘ MONTREAL, November 14, 1903.

‘ Compagnie Générale Transatlantique,

‘ General Agency for Canada,

‘ 1672 Notre Dame Street, Montreal.

‘ GENTLEMEN,—I hereby beg to apply for the third-class rate steamship tickets for your line. I represent nine different lines as per the attached list, and I think I could do business with your company.

‘ I have a number of inquiries for tickets and I think I could sell a good many for you.

‘ For reference as to financial standing, please refer to Dominion Bank or Hoche-laga Bank, or Toronto Bank. I will also refer to Mr. G. E. Burns, chief of labour department of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, for whom I have been supplying men for a number of years.

SESSIONAL PAPER No. 36b.

'I also supply men for the Grand Trunk and a large number of contractors and railway companies, &c., in Canada, and in the course of the year I get in touch with probably 6,000 or 7,000 Italians.

'Will you kindly let me know what you can do for me in the above and oblige,

'Yours respectfully,

'ANTONIO CORDASCO, p. A. GANNA.'

Q. Do you remember whether he got the agencies for these companies?—A. Yes, a few days after, I think about 10 or 15 days.

Q. So this was before he wrote to the people in Italy for 10,000 men?—A. I do not remember the date of that letter.

Q. These were in November, 1903, and your letters were early in 1904? It was in March, I think, the last of February, or beginning of March.

Q. Have you that letter to Franco in June?—A. Franco?

Q. In June, 1904, last letter I read yesterday?—A. Vincenzo Franco, Boston, page 223, it was in Italian.

Q. I would like to get a translation. You can give me this cheque sending money back to the same correspondent? He has not sent it yet?—A. Yes, he told me.

Q. You better show it to me before sending?—A. Yes, Your Honour.

Q. I would like to get a copy of that letetr. (Showing letter)?—A. This afternoon.

Q. How soon?—A. Two o'clock. What time do you want it?

Q. As soon as you can make it?—A. All right.

Q. That \$20 referred to in Franco's letter was received from him because he wanted a position as foreman?—A. Yes.

Q. How high does Mr. Cordasco go in his demands for money for getting positions as foremen?—A. Nothing, he wrote himself and sent \$20 instead of \$10, because he hoped to get work before some others.

Q. Because he wanted to get work before others?—A. Yes.

Q. Do you remember the largest sum that was paid Mr. Cordasco?—A. This \$20.

Q. In your time?—A. In my time, yes.

Q. Then you wrote a letter also to Tomasso Monteverse?—A. Yes.

Q. On the 3rd of March, 1904; look at letter book?—A. I think so.

Q. You produced this as a letter you wrote, this was written according to Cordasco's instructions?—A. Same as the others.

Q. Who is Nicola Maroni?—A. I do not remember now, because there is one Maroni in Montreal.

Q. Do you remember Nicola Maroni?—A. He had seven or eight steamship offices in Montreal.

Q. Is he here now?—A. Not at present, in January or February

Q. Who were the men he brought out?—A. This I cannot tell.

Q. You do not know?—A. No, he came to the office.

Q. Was he a foreman?—A. I do not think so, he is not registered in Mr. Cordasco's book as foreman.

Q. How did he come to send over so many men?—A. I remember he came twice.

Q. Did he come in the same ship as Boconcelli?—A. Perhaps, one time I think he came with Boconcelli, I am not sure. Yes he came about the same time.

Q. Came on same day, on the 11th January?—A. In January, yes.

Q. Do you know how many tickets he purchased?—A. I cannot tell you exactly.

Q. Boconcelli and Maroni, there are seven marked there?—A. Yes.

Q. Do you know how much he charged these men going out?—A. I do not know what Maroni charged.

Q. Probably the same as Boconcelli, they were together?—A. Some people have told me that Boconcelli charged \$60, but I do not think this is true.

Q. From the men who came out?—A. No, because I had no occasion to ask this of Boconcelli.

Q. Mr. Boconcelli told that to Mr. Cordasco, that was what you heard?—A. Yes, perhaps.

Q. How many men are now in Montreal, how many Italians unemployed?—A. I do not know, very few.

Q. How many have come to your office asking for employment within the last two or three weeks?—A. Only about 300 men.

Q. Still unemployed?—A. Yes.

Q. You were asked to pay their money back?—A. Some asked for their money, others for work.

Q. You think 300?—A. No more.

Q. How many are you sending out this morning?—A. They leave to-morrow morning.

Q. How many?—A. 118 and I think to-morrow night about 75 and day after to-morrow some more.

Q. Almost 200 in two days?—A. Yes.

Q. Where are you sending them?—A. West; I have not seen the contract, at Winnipeg.

Q. On the Canadian Pacific Railway?—A. Yes, on the Canadian Pacific Railway.

Q. I am glad you are doing it; this is an improvement. These notices that were printed, did you get them at Mr. Cordasco's request?—A. These, I have read these.

Q. And wrote them?—A. I do not know; I think Your Honour can get the manuscript and find it is not written by me.

Q. Where is the manuscript?—A. I think at the printers.

Q. Well, then from what I can see you did not write them, and Mr. Cordasco was wrong in saying you did?—A. Yes, I did not write it.

Q. There are some things you have not done. I think that is all, Mr. Ganna.

Mr. BURNS, re-called.

By the Commissioner :

Q. This is a receipt showing you have paid for advertising in *La Patria Italiana*; do you remember what the 400 copies of the paper were for?—A. I think I had them distributed all over; we were very badly in need of men at that time.

Q. You heard the evidence of Mr. Ganna about sending out 200 men within the next day or two?—A. Yes.

Q. By whom were they directed to be sent out?—A. Through my office, and the instructions were to send out all the men possible out of employment.

Q. And any who paid money to Cordasco illegally, as the evidence showed?—A. My instructions were that he was to refund it; I do not know whether he has done so or not yet.

Q. How much money do you think he ought to repay them?—A. I do not know.

Q. Do you think \$4 a head too much to compel Mr. Cordasco to refund?—A. I do not know. I have orders for more men; I can place possibly about 2,000.

Q. Without paying anything to Cordasco?—A. This is not for the Canadian Pacific Railway; it is for large irrigation works at Calgary. About 2,000 men are required, and inquiries are made by American lines, and men are wanted very badly.

Q. You will see that no money is paid to Cordasco for any of their employment?—A. Yes, I will do my best.

SESSIONAL PAPER No. 36b.

Mr. POMPEO BIANCO, re-examined. (Through interpreter.)

By the Commissioner :

Q. Now, what do you wish to say ?—A. Mr. Cordasco asked us for our photos for that supplement.

Q. At the time he was crowned king of the workers?—A. Yes.

Q. Before crowning him?—A. Yes.

Q. How much was Cordasco going to give them for their photos?—A. He charged \$5 to all the foremen.

Q. He charged them?—A. Yes.

Q. Did the men pay ?—A. Mr. Cordasco told us, do you see that picture with 'la tête en bas' (upside down), that man refused to pay, and if any one else refuses to pay I will have his picture put there upside down, so we paid.

Q. Rather than have your picture upside down ?—A. Yes.

Q. Was there any inducement other than that?—A. Afterwards he said now I feel better, I am all right, everything is going well.

Q. After he was crowned?—A. Yes. Well, now, he said, 'We are going to have a banquet,' and Cordasco said he was to subscribe \$25. He did not pay the money, but put down the name in the book.

Q. Well?—A. He said to the foremen, any one who refuses to pay will go out of my office. So we paid each \$5 for the banquet.

Q. Did he offer any inducement other than work ?—A. After that we met at Roncari's, 471 Craig street, and we had a banquet there. We had drink, everything was good fun. Cordasco said I have received much honour this evening, there were a good many there. I do not know their names, but Cordasco said that one of them was the chief superintendent of the Vancouver division, and he will want 5,000 or 6,000 Italians for the coming spring.

Q. That was at Vancouver?—A. At Vancouver only, for Vancouver 5,000 or 6,000. Mr. Cordasco paid \$70 to Mr. Roncari for the banquet and kept the balance for himself.

Q. For himself ?—A. For himself. He had collected \$200 from 40 foremen at \$5 each and only gave Roncari \$70.

Q. He only made \$130 out of that?—A. Certainly he put that money in his pocket.

Q. Well, he has only kept up his general record. Is that all you know?—A. Well, some of those present at the banquet paid \$7 and some \$10 and he said well when you come back we will take some beer. He bought ten barrels for the poor people when passing, but they refused to take any. Of course he got that from the proceeds of the banquet. And then he sent out foremen who had never worked as foremen, men who had come from the States and never saw a track before.

Q. Boconcelli?—A. He said he better go to Mr. Burns, he will send you out. Cordasco took money from the men last night and this morning.

Q. That is the kind of man he is. How much?—A. \$3 men who paid \$1 before charged \$2 more.

The Commissioner to Mr. Ganna:

Q. Will you go for the book showing where these payments are entered?—A. I will go for it now.

POMPEO BIANCO.—The foremen took money from the men, A. Giacci took \$2 from each person yesterday.

THE COMMISSIONER.—But these men must not pay money for work, Mr. Burns will employ as many as want to go out. Will you please tell them this, Mr. Viglino, in Italian.

Mr. Viglino informs the men accordingly.

Mr. SALVATORE MOLLO re-examined.

By the Commissioner:

Q. What do you wish to state, Mr. Mollo?—A. There were some names mentioned in Cordasco's newspaper against Mr. Candori and at the end of articles written they used to sign my name and I never authorized anyone to sign my name.

Q. Well, this is a matter between you and Cordasco. You can have him arrested for forgery, we cannot inquire into that.

Mr. DOMINICO PAMPILLO being sworn.

By the Commissioner:

Q. Well Mr. Pampillo, what do you wish to state?—A. When I came back last year from the country Cordasco asked me to give him \$1, and I paid him \$1, and afterwards \$2, making \$3.

Q. When did you pay the other \$2?—A. About 20 days ago.

Q. Did you ask him to return the money?—A. I asked him this morning and he refused.

Q. Well go now to him and say that if he does not have it paid by two o'clock you will let me know about it.

Mr. CHARLES HODGSON OSLER being sworn.

By Mr. Mowat:

Q. What is your position in the Montreal Light, Heat and Power Company?—
A. Superintendent of mains and services.

Q. And you therefore superintend the employment of labour?—A. Yes.

Q. You remember the influx of Italian labour last April and May?—A. Yes.

Q. Would that affect the scale of wages for labourers?—A. Yes, I think it would.

Q. Do you employ many Italians or strangers?—A. A large proportion.

Q. How many?—A. Out of 250 or 260 men about 100 are Italians.

Q. What is the scale now?—A. We pay from \$1.25 to \$1.35.

Q. Other labour a little higher?—A. \$1.35 to \$1.45, some \$1.25.

Q. Thank you, that is all.

By the Commissioner:

Q. What is the maximum wages paid for labourers?—A. Well, I think \$1.45 is the maximum.

Q. And the others are specialists above that?—A. Yes.

Q. These Italians only receive from \$1.25 to \$1.35?—A. Yes.

Q. Are there others besides Italians only receiving that pay?—A. Yes, quite a number.

Q. Who are they?—A. Well, some English and French-speaking men.

Q. You get as many as you require on your works without any difficulty?—A. We have done it so far. We have had no trouble at all. We had a little trouble last year, but we increased the wage to \$1.45.

Q. For everybody?—A. For good men.

Q. About \$1.45?—A. Yes.

Q. Why do you not make the line \$1.50?—A. I do not know why. We could get no more out of them. We got lots of men this year at \$1.25, whereas we had to pay \$1.45 last year.

SESSIONAL PAPER No. 36b.

Q. I suppose there are the same number employed this year as last?—A. No, I have nearly double the quantity this year.

Q. How many have you now?—A. I suppose 260 or 270 altogether.

Q. How many last year?—A. Perhaps 150 or 160; something about that, I do not remember exactly.

Q. Do you know was there any attempt to bring out these Italians so far as you were concerned before being brought out by any public man or manufacturer?—A. Not that I am aware of.

Q. You did not hear of it?—A. No, we did not hear of it until we happened to be falling over them in the streets. Then we thought we might as well get all the work done we could while there was such a large influx of men.

Q. The wages then dropped 20c.?—A. Yes; well, of course, I cannot say it was altogether due to that.

Q. Due to the fact of the flood of men?—A. Well, some time ago many railways shut down and a good many thousands were thrown out of employment in the States.

Q. A great number of these came over from the States?—A. Yes.

Q. Was that owing to the railways shutting down?—A. I cannot say that alone, but it would affect a very large number of men. That, however, did not enter into the question. There was a large influx of men, and we took advantage of labour as it came in.

Q. That helped you?—A. Certainly.

Q. That is all, thank you.

Mr. SKINNER, re-called.

By the Commissioner :

Q. Well, Mr. Skinner, you have heard all this evidence from day to day as to the improprieties of this man Cordasco; what explanation have you to make of those overcharges?—A. I cannot make any explanation. I can say that almost every item in Cordasco's evidence was an absolute surprise to me. I did not know anything of these transactions between Cordasco and his labourers, and I had no possible opportunity of being able to know what was going on between them, as the negotiations with his labourers were all carried on in Italian and behind closed doors. My only negotiations with Cordasco were, as I said before, to tell him when the company wanted some men.

In connection with my surprise regarding Cordasco's evidence, I wish to say that I have every reason to believe that Mr. Burns had the same surprise. On the afternoon before this investigation began I happened to be in Mr. Burns' office in the Windsor street station, and I heard Mr. Burns say—

Q. That is not evidence?—A. I heard Mr. Burns tell Mr. Cordasco, in some such words as these. Mr. Cordasco was somewhat agitated, and Mr. Burns told him most emphatically : I want you to produce everything you have in this investigation. Tell the whole truth, you have nothing to fear. I did not take part in the conversation, but inferred from Mr. Burns' whole manner—

The COMMISSIONER.—Just state the facts, Mr. Skinner, just as they occurred; I do not want inferences.

By Mr. Mowat :

Q. There has been some evidence about your taxing down those bills for the past six or seven months?—A. Yes.

By the Commissioner :

Q. What means did you take to satisfy yourself as to these, was this one month?—
A. I began taxing Cordasco's accounts beginning with the month of October. I dis-

4-5 EDWARD VII., A. 1905

puted these accounts from the very first, and checked some of them every month. I took off a large amount in December and remember the great fuss made by Cordasco about it. I said you can appeal to Mr. Burns. He appealed to Mr. Burns, but Mr. Burns supported my views. Every month almost there has been a large amount taken off and most of these were so changed by me in taxation that Cordasco got them type-written over again in order that they might look well.

Q. His overcharges in the first place were so excessive?—A. I want to say this, Your Honour, as to my position in the labour department. Almost everything goes through me from Mr. Burns to Cordasco, and I believe I am in such a position as to tell better than anybody else if there is any wrong-doing, and as far as Mr. Burns is concerned, he is the only person I have heard spoken of with any disrespect, and from my knowledge in the conduct of the labour department of the Canadian Pacific Railway, I am absolutely certain in my mind that Mr. Burns did not know——

Q. That is not evidence, you must adduce facts. You are only stating your opinion. Now, in the month of October you reduced Mr. Cordasco's account $1\frac{1}{2}$ days, you allow him $28\frac{1}{2}$ at \$5?—A. I think a couple of Sundays were taken off.

Q. In November the same thing, 28 days; December was the largest number of days interfered with, and he immediately raised a row. That was the first time there was any difficulty, because you allowed him his accounts up to that time?—A. Of course, I was fresh at that time.

Q. At no time did you go into the provision accounts at all?—A. I did not; the prices were settled by some one.

Q. The prices were not settled because no evidence was given to that effect?—A. I inquired of that.

Q. From whom?—A. I spoke to Mr. Burns.

Q. Did you inquire from any grocer?—A. No, I did not.

Q. That was the place you would have found out the value. You saw there were \$6,000 or \$7,000 worth of provisions supplied to Italians and Chinese, and there was really no audit of that account, and there were over \$3,800 overcharged in that account?—A. Of course, you mean the difference between the cost and the profit?

Q. Yes, Cordasco was your agent; you saw he was supplying these goods, and you knew he had no business to make such profits?—A. I did not understand that; it is the custom in the Canadian Pacific Railway that every one going to work provides his own provisions.

Q. It is the custom for the Canadian Pacific Railway to have their work honestly performed, and you were employing Cordasco; he had no right to make such a profit; Mr. Burns admitted that?—A. I admit that.

Q. That is all, Mr. Skinner.

Adjourned until 2 p.m.

MONTREAL, QUE., July 26, 1903.

THE COURT HOUSE, 2 p.m.

The Commission resumes.

Mr. CORDASCO recalled.

By the Commissioner :

Q. Is this the little slip you got printed for the occasion of your coronation?—A. I saw this after the coronation, I did not know about it.

SESSIONAL PAPER No. 35b.

Q. It was handed to the Italians?—A. Well, I have no doubt it was. I saw this, 'Viva Edouardo VII., Viva Le Canada, Viva Antonio Cordasco, Viva C.P.R., Viva l'Italia.'

Q. The men got that up at that time?—A. Yes.

Q. Let us understand, have we heard from you all the details of the manner in which you obtained money from these Italians, have you told me about all the moneys you have obtained in any way from them?—A. Pretty near, sir. What I remember.

Q. Cannot you go a little nearer?—A. I don't know.

Q. What other means did you take to get money out of them. Had you a boarding house, a lodging house. Had you not to be paid so much per man?—A. When a labourer came I called Mosco and I told him to send him to his place to make friends.

Q. How much did you get from each man per month?—A. Nothing.

Q. \$3 per month?—A. For what?

Q. For lodgings?—A. I never had any lodgings.

Q. Have you no place to send them to?—A. I do not charge one cent.

Q. Do you swear to that?—A. Sure.

Q. Some people will swear that you did charge them \$3?—A. I never charged them anything. I kept a boarding house some years ago. I charged an immigrant \$2 when other people charged \$2.50 and \$2.75 and as high as \$3 per week. This money does not go into my pocket not for board.

Q. Goes to Mosco or others?—A. Yes.

Q. These are your men, Mosco is your man?—A. When he works for me I pay him.

Q. Gaillard is your man?—A. Has got house by himself.

Q. Who lives on Craig Street?—A. Pellegrini.

Q. He is your man, your house?—A. That is rented from the Canadian Pacific Railway.

Q. And which he is conducting for you?—A. For himself and his wife.

Q. How much does he pay you?—A. \$20 per month, I don't know. I told you I began giving him \$5 then \$10. He is working for himself and if he charges the men \$2 or \$3 I do not know.

Q. How many poultry did you send up to Mr. Burns some time ago?—A. I sent one sure.

Q. Only one?—A. Sure.

Q. Any other presents?—A. A few fruits, something like that on Easter Sunday. He has been very good to me outside of the Canadian Pacific Railway. He got me the agencies.

Q. You took him over to New York with you?—A. Yes.

Q. You did not pay his way?—A. No, sir.

Q. Did he pay your way?—A. He pay my way? I paid myself.

Q. Well, that is all I wish to ask you to-day?—A. If there is anything else I can do for you I am ready.

Q. If you do right by those poor Italians you got money from, that will be better?—A. I will give them back every cent; you can depend on Cordasco.

Mr. RICHARD BRINTON being sworn.

Q. What is your occupation. You are an employment agent?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. How long have you been acting as such in Montreal?—A. Two years.

Q. What class of men do you employ?—A. All classes.

Q. You employ unskilled labour?—A. Yes, sir.

4-5 EDWARD VII., A. 1905

Q. How many?—A. My partner has the figures, I do not know. (Partner who is present hands him paper with figures.) This year 355.

Q. For whom have you employed them?—A. The Dominion Coal Company and certain other contractors.

Q. Do you find any difficulty in getting all you require?—A. At the present time we do.

Q. Up to the present you have not?—A. No.

Q. What is the cause of difficulty now?—A. I think the men are pretty scarce.

Q. Have they gone out?—A. They have all gone out to work.

Q. Or occupied in the city?—A. Yes.

Q. How much do you charge each man for obtaining work for him?—A. According to the length of the job and money that he gets.

Q. Let me have your charges?—A. \$1.25 to \$1.40 a day; we charge \$1, sometimes \$1.50 up to \$1.75. Sometimes we have charged from \$2.25 to \$2.50 because we have guaranteed favourable prices to Glace Bay and charged extra.

Q. How much do you charge for foremen?—A. We never charge for foremen. We have hired foremen, but do not charge anything. They find the men and get the job for nothing.

Q. You do not charge foremen \$5?—A. No.

Q. You do not charge them other than ordinary labourers?—A. I do not charge foremen at all.

Q. Do you find it difficult to get all you want during the year?—A. Yes, in the fall, say from now until the end of October.

Q. What means do you take to get Italians?—A. We pay 25c. a head for rounding them up.

Q. Foremen?—A. Men who round them up.

Q. You have a man to round them up at 25c.?—A. Yes.

Q. Does he succeed?—A. Yes.

Q. Last year did you succeed?—A. We did not hire many Italians last year.

Q. How many do you remember?—A. I do not think we have hired 100.

Q. You think not 100?—A. I think not 100 last year.

Q. Have you hired any for any of the railways?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Which railway company did you supply with men?—A. We have been supplying Mr. Macdonald, Canadian Northern, with some, and the Great Northern Railway Company.

Q. What class of immigrants are there in Montreal, the largest number, besides Italians?—A. We have Scandinavians, Poles and Russians.

Q. Are there many English, Scotch or Irish?—A. There are a great many in the floating population of a big city like this; they generally go through to the west.

Q. How many are there in the country going through?—A. I cannot tell.

Q. Now, do you register every man you employ in any book?—A. No, we do not charge any man anything until we get an order to hire men.

Q. No such thing as registration?—A. We have opened since a short time a register and registered about 20 skilled men, clerks, but no unskilled men.

Q. What is the result of unskilled labour coming in such large numbers as were brought here during March and April this year?—A. The result is on the workingmen's wages.

Q. You mean to say that it reduces wages, were they reduced generally or not?—A. I do not think it made a bit of difference.

Q. Do you know, as a matter of fact, whether it did make any difference or not?—A. I do not know.

Q. Have you inquired?—A. I know that wages are just as they were.

Q. How high are they?—A. They range from \$1.25 to \$1.75. Generally from \$1.25 to \$1.50.

Q. They were \$1.25 last year?—A. In Montreal and neighbourhood, yes.

SESSIONAL PAPER No. 36b.

Q. What do you mean by neighbourhood?—A. Somewhere around Montreal.

Q. You mean to say that wages were \$1.25 last fall?—A. That is what they paid at the Radner Forges down below.

Q. Had they any Italians?—A. Yes.

Q. How many?—A. I cannot tell you.

Q. How many men do they employ?—A. I am sure I do not know.

Q. 100?—A. More than that.

Q. 200?—A. Somewhere in the neighbourhood of 200.

Q. You see the Superintendent of the Montreal Light, Heat and Power Company stated that they were paying \$1.45 last year for unskilled labour, which was hard to get even at that; this year it is \$1.25. You see that is a reduction, you did not know that?—A. Of course, there are circumstances where firms pay higher than other firms. Some firms, when they treat labour right, can get men at \$1.25 per day, when others have to pay \$1.40. Perhaps board is cheaper in one place than in others.

Q. Do these men board them besides paying them?—A. No, they have to pay for their own board in the city of Montreal. I did not hire many men for Montreal.

Q. You do not know about the wages in Montreal?—A. Not much.

Q. Do you know what wages were paid in Montreal last year?—A. Well, I think the corporation paid about \$1.50.

Q. The corporation pays that now?—A. Yes.

Q. That is all, Mr. Brinton.

Mr. THOMAS D. TATTERSALL being sworn.

By the Commissioner:

Q. You are Mr. Brinton's partner?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Carrying on business under the name of the Dominion Employment Agency in the city of Montreal?—A. Yes.

Q. For the last year?—A. I have been in partnership with my friend since August last year.

Q. You have heard Mr. Brinton's evidence?—A. I have.

Q. What do you say in reference to it?—A. It covers the ground.

Q. You corroborate his statements?—A. Yes.

Q. You charge no higher than \$2.50 and that is all?—A. Never.

Q. That is for men who receive?—A. Remunerative positions.

Q. What wages?—A. \$1.75 to \$2 per day.

Q. Are these unskilled labourers?—A. Yes.

Q. From \$1.75 to \$2 as far as \$2.25.

Q. \$1.75 up?—A. Yes. We have a firm doing business that hire men at from \$1.75 to \$2.25.

Q. You charge the parties you supply with men?—A. Not always; we cannot get it from both ends.

Q. You are like others, you try to get from both ends?—A. I do not understand.

Q. Sometimes do you get from employers \$1 per man and sometimes you get nothing?—A. At present we cannot get anything from both ends, we cannot get anything from employers.

Q. You cannot get anything from employers?—A. Not at present.

Q. And you agree with what Mr. Brinton says as to the difficulty in getting men?—A. It is commencing to get difficult.

Q. How many unemployed are there in Montreal now, unskilled labourers, how many?—A. That is a pretty hard proposition.

Q. About how many?—A. I should say about 2,000 or 3,000.

Q. Unemployed?—A. Of these of course are a number who would not go to work if they could.

4-5 EDWARD VII., A. 1905

Q. How many unemployed Italians are there at present?—A. Not a great many.

Q. About how many?—A. I should judge about 300 or 400.

Q. You have not made any inquiry?—A. Well, I have not, but in the course of my business I cover the city pretty well and can form a fair idea.

Q. That will be all, thank you.

The COMMISSIONER.—To Mr. Perron: Have you any provincial statute relating to employment agencies?—A. We have a by-law and we have a provincial statute as to notices given by masters and servants.

Q. Nothing else?—A. No.

Q. If there is any other witness or any one who would like to make a statement, I will take the statement before I adjourn.

Q. Mr. Perron, you will kindly leave this copy of the by-law with me?—A. It is for your own use, Your Honour.

The COMMISSIONER.—Now my address will be, for any communication on this subject, care of the Minister of Labour, Ottawa; so if any one wishes to address me within a week or so I will be ready to receive any communication at all, and if necessary, I will sit again if there is any important evidence to be heard before I make my final report; however, I cannot wait very long. Do you wish to say anything, Mr. Perron?

Mr. PERRON.—No, Your Honour, I will leave the whole matter in the hands of Your Honour.

The COMMISSIONER.—Very well, adjourned *sine die*.

INDEX

Of witnesses who gave testimony before the Italian Immigration Commission which held its sittings in the City of Montreal, Que., in the month of July, 1904, showing their occupation or calling, date on which they gave evidence, and page at which evidence is reported ; also index of the different documents appearing in the minutes of evidence.

Name.	Occupation or calling.	Date.	Page.
Agostino, Giuseppe	Labourer	July 21.	39
Bazzani, Pietro	Foreman	" 22.	68
Bianco, Giovanni	Labourer	" 22.	71
Bianco, Giuseppe	"	" 22.	71
Bianco, Pompeo	Foreman	" 21.	29
" re-examined	"	" 26.	163
Brinton, Richard	Employment agent	" 26.	167
Burns, Geo. E.	Special service agent, C.P.R.	" 21.	40
" re-called	"	" 22.	51
" "	"	" 22.	64
" "	"	" 22.	72
" "	"	" 23.	107
" "	"	" 23.	114
" "	"	" 25.	151
" "	"	" 26.	155
" "	"	" 26.	162
<i>Correspondence.</i>			
Burns, Geo. E.	Letter, December 10, 1903, to F. P. Brady		53
"	" May 10, 1904, from Cordasco		56
"	" May 9, 1904, from Cordasco		57
"	" May 18, 1904, from Cordasco		58
"	" May 3, 1904, from Cordasco		58
"	" May 17, 1904, to Mr. Timmerman		61
"	" May 6, 1904, to Count Mazza		112
"	" Nov. 13, 1903, from Guertin		152
"	Statement of men employed		157
Carcarabelli, Rabiello	Labourer	July 22.	66
Campobianco, Achillo	"	" 22.	69
Candori, Rodolphe	Clerk, Italian Immigration Aid Society	" 21.	10
"	"	" 23.	117
"	"	" 25.	154
Carmine, Fiorillo	Labourer	" 22.	68
Catelli, C. H.	President Italian Immigration Society	" 25.	126
"	Statement by ten Italians, April 22, 1904, <i>re</i> letter from Cordasco to Paretto		126
"	Letter from Italians at North Bay		127
Cilla, Michele	Labourer	July 22.	37
Cordasco, Antonio	Labour agent	" 22.	73
" re-examined	"	" 23.	93
" "	"	" 23.	114
" "	"	" 25.	127
" "	"	" 25.	138
" "	"	" 26.	145
" "	"	" 26.	166
"	Telegram, May 5, 1904, to Foley Bros. & Larson		57
"	Letter, April 28, 1904, to J. Osborne		58
"	" Mar. 1, 1904, to Antonio Parretti, Undine, Italy		80
"	" Feb. 17, 1904, from Parretti		80
"	" April 26, 1904, to Parretti		81
"	" October 18, 1903, to F. Ludwig Chiasso		82
"	" April 6, 1904, to Parretti		81
"	" Nov. 27, 1904, from F. Ludwig		83
"	" Feb. 9, 1904, to A. Guerrieri, Mapleton, Pa.		84
"	" Jan. 6, 1904, to Luca Cammarota & Co.		84
"	"		121
"	" Jan. 26, 1904, to Luigi Scarcella, Ottawa, Ont		84

SESSIONAL PAPER No. 35b.

INDEX—*Concluded.*

Name.	Occupation or calling.	Date.	Page.
Italian Immigration Aid Society, No. 1	Letter from secretary, C. Marriotti, to D. McNicol, general manager C.P.R. ....	.....	3
" "	Letter, March 16, 1904, from G. E. Burns. ....	.....	13
" "	Letter, March, 26, 1904, to D. McNicol. ....	.....	72
" "	Petition, May 19, 1904, to Governor General in Council. ....	.....	113
" "	Part of constitution read. ....	.....	118
Laporte, Hormisdas	Mayor of Montreal	July 23.	89
" "	Letter, June 3, 1904, from Jos. Charpentier, detective, enclosing another from Alf. Riopel of June 3, 1904. ....	.....	93
" "	Letter, May 31, 1904, to Sir Wilfrid Laurier. ....	.....	27
Lane, Richard A.	Secretary, Charity Organization Society.	July 21.	27
Lazzaro, Imperatore	Labourer	" 22.	68
Leslie, John	Auditor, Disbursements C.P.R.	" 25.	144
Leto, Stephano	Foreman	" 22.	71
Lombardi, Costanzo	Labourer	" 23.	67
Mack, J. B.	Vice Pres., Dominion Trades & Labour Congress.	" 25.	136
Mancini, Vincenzo	Foreman	" 22.	69
Manzelli, Antonio	Labourer	" 22.	70
Mazza, Count Francesco	Italian Consul, Montreal	" 23.	110
Miele, Adolph	Foreman	" 22.	69
Mignella, Giuseppe	"	" 21.	31
" " re-called	"	" 23.	123
Mollo, Salvatore	"	" 21.	34
" " re-called	"	" 26.	164
Morillo, Giovanni	Labourer	" 22.	67
Musco, Nicola	Cordasco's employee.	" 25.	150
Orciano, Michele	Labourer	" 22.	66
Osler, J. C. H.	Supt. Montreal Light, Heat & Power Co.	" 26.	164
Palmiero, Pietro	Labourer	" 22.	72
Pampillo, Damasco	"	" 26.	164
Picimento, Francesco	"	" 21.	37
Rodier, J. A.	Member, Montreal Trades & Labour Council.	" 25.	133
Santarella, Giuseppe	Labourer	" 23.	133
Sciano, Vincenzo	"	" 21.	32
Sicari, Antonio	"	" 21.	36
" " re-called	"	" 21.	37
Skinner, John S.	Labour agent C.P.R.	" 21.	19
" " re-called	"	" 21.	23
" "	"	" 26.	165
Spidigliacci, Nicola	Labourer	" 22.	65
Taliano, Rafaele	Foreman	" 21.	40
Tattersall, T. D.	Employment agent	" 26.	169
Timpolo, Bruno	Labourer	" 21.	40
Tisi, Michele	"	" 21.	33
Waller, Mortimer	Employment agent	" 22.	47

